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LOUISIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

Vol. II. Part I.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES

OF THE

LOUISIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

TULANE HALL, March 19, 1897.

The society met at 8 P. M., President Fortier in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. President Fortier appointed the following committees to serve during the ensuing year:

Finance: Messrs. Livaudais, Kohn and Grima.

Work and Archives: Dr. Devron, Professor Ficklen and Mr. C. G. Gill.

Membership: Messrs. Favrot, Williams and Professor Beyer.

After the regular routine of business, Dr. O'Hagan, of Canada, one of the visitors to the Catholic Winter School, gave a brief and interesting talk on the literary development of Canada as exemplified in its poetry. The comparison he established between such development in Canada and in Louisiana was clear and forcible. The French language in Canada, however, not having been sustained as in Louisiana by such constant intercourse with the mother country, was noticeably inferior in purity and elegance to that spoken and written in Louisiana.

Mr. Allain Eustis was then introduced by the president. He exhibited to the society a pamphlet, entitled: "Les Confessions de Napoléon, Manuscrit venu de Ste. Hélène d'une manière inconnue," published by Murray in London, in 1817; a pamphlet of great historical and political importance in its day. Mr. Eustis gave an account of how he came into the possession of the rare publication, and enumerated where the few known copies were to be found, concluding with a vivid description of the mystery that had surrounded it until recently, when the author was discovered to be M. Lullien de Chateauvieux, of Geneva, Switzerland.

Miss Kate Minor deposited with the society for safe keeping the following documents, formerly belonging to Gov. Gayoso: Benedict Arnold to Benjamin Lamb, bond for £150, February 3, 1763. Levee Ordinance signed by Carondelet, June 20, 1792. Appointment of Bernard Lintot, treasurer of Adams county, Miss., by Winthrop Sargent, Governor of Mississippi Territory, April 5, 1799. Power of Attorney from Henry Overton, to Bernard Lintot, London, March 31, 1767.

Mr. Gaspard Cusachs exhibited the series of royal ordinances relating to Louisiana from 1725 to 1764, in perfect preservation.

Professor Beyer reported that Dr. Rudolph Matas, the highest local authority on craniology, advised that the Larto mound skull, submitted to him for examination, be forwarded to the Scientific Societies of Paris, for their judgment upon it.

President Fortier repeated a suggestion from Prof. Hanno Deiler, that the society should take steps to secure the contents of the corner-stone of the old Law Building on Common street, about to be demolished. The suggestion was put in the form of a resolution and adopted, with the amendment that a photograph of the building should also be secured.

Meeting of April 21, 1897.

A communication from Prof. Otis Mason of the Smithsonian Institution was read. Professor Mason warmly commended the work done by Professor Beyer in the excavations of the Catahoula mounds, and expressed the hope that the work of mound investigation in Louisiana would be continued.

President Fortier took occasion to speak of the advantage of such work in the society, and expressed the opinion that the society should contribute as much as possible to the further prosecution of it. Professor Beyer stated that he intended to return to Catahoula to continue the exploration begun, and that he also proposed to investigate some of the shell mounds of the State.

The secretary of the society was authorized to send to Mr. Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University, a set of the society's publications.

On motion of Mr. Favrot the following amendment to the Constitution was adopted:

That the name of the treasurer of the society be added to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Gill presented the following resolution, which, after some discussion, was adopted:

WHEREAS, The late calamity of the Moresque Building fire has brought to our notice the insecurity from fire of the Fisk Free and Public Library building, which at one time during the conflagration was threatened with destruction, this society respectfully and earnestly petitions the Honorable Governor and Secretary of State to withhold their order for the removal of the valuable historical collections of the State Library to the said building until such time as the fears expressed in the resolution be proved, to the satisfaction of the Governor, groundless.

President Fortier appointed Judge King and Professor Ficklen a committee to present the memorial to the Governor.

Dr. Castellanos then read a most interesting account of the early history of the Charity Hospital, collected from sources of information hitherto unknown and unpublished.

MEETING OF MAY 19, 1897.

President Fortier, on behalf of the Executive Committee, recommended that fifty dollars be voted by the society to assist Prof. Beyer in carrying on his mound investigations. The sum was voted unanimously. A letter from Governor Foster was read acknowledging receipt of the communication from Judge King and Prof. Ficklen in regard to the removal of the books of the State Library to the building of the Fisk Free and Public Library. In the name of Mr. A. D. Windom, of Washington, D. C., Mr. Favrot presented to the society some photographic views of old buildings of New Orleans.

Mr. Favrot offered to procure from Baton Rouge for the society the two chairs in which Galvez and Dixon sat during the proceedings of the capitulation of Fort Galvez. The offer was gratefully accepted.

On motion of Mr. Beer a copy of that portion of the treaty of Paris which related to the Louisiana purchase was ordered printed in the proceedings of the society.

Mr. Bell submitted to the society an autograph letter of Iberville, owned by Mr. John Boyd Thatcher.

Mr. Favrot then read a paper replete with new historical data upon the echo, as he called it, of the Revolution in Baton Rouge and the West Florida parishes. Mr. Favrot supplemented his composition with the original document from which it was derived.

Dr. Devron exhibited to the society a curious document that throws light on one of the dark places in Louisiana history. This was a certificate of the man who conveyed M. Aubry, the French Commander of Louisiana, in a canoe two miles and a half below the city to the ship in which he sailed for France. The man certifies that Aubry took with him two chests containing each, at least, ten thousand livres; a sack filled with money, and in addition, carried in his purse from fifteen to sixteen thousand livres; the two chests and the sack being deposited in the captain's cabin, which Aubry had engaged for the voyage. Dr. Devron also read the sworn statement by the five survivers of the loss of this ship with crew, cargo and passengers in the mouth of the Garonne; mentioning in the inventory of the cargo the chests and a sack of money. Dr. Devron, in a short address on these documents, made the point that inference was unavoidable that this money in the possession of Aubry had come to him through Spain, and, therefore, in payment for the information furnished by him to O'Reilly, which led to the conviction and execution of the five French patriots.

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MEETING OF JUNE 16, 1897.

No papers read. After the usual order of business, a resolution was unanimously passed expressing the sincere grief of the society over the death of its member, His Grace Archbishop Janssens. The society adjourned to meet on the third Wednesday in October.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 1897.

This meeting was held in the assembly room of Tulane Hall, to which members and guests had been invited to listen to Prof. Beyer's report on his last mound investigations. A large number was in attendance. President Fortier in calling the meeting to order took occasion to speak of the gratifying progress the society had made since its reorganization. The lapse in the meetings, he said, it was hardly necessary to explain, was due to the visitation of the yellow fever and consequent precautions established by the Board of Health.

Professor Beyer read the able report, which is incorporated in the present number of the society's publication.

THE MOUNDS OF LOUISIANA.

BY PROF. GEORGE E. BEYER, Tulane University.

II.

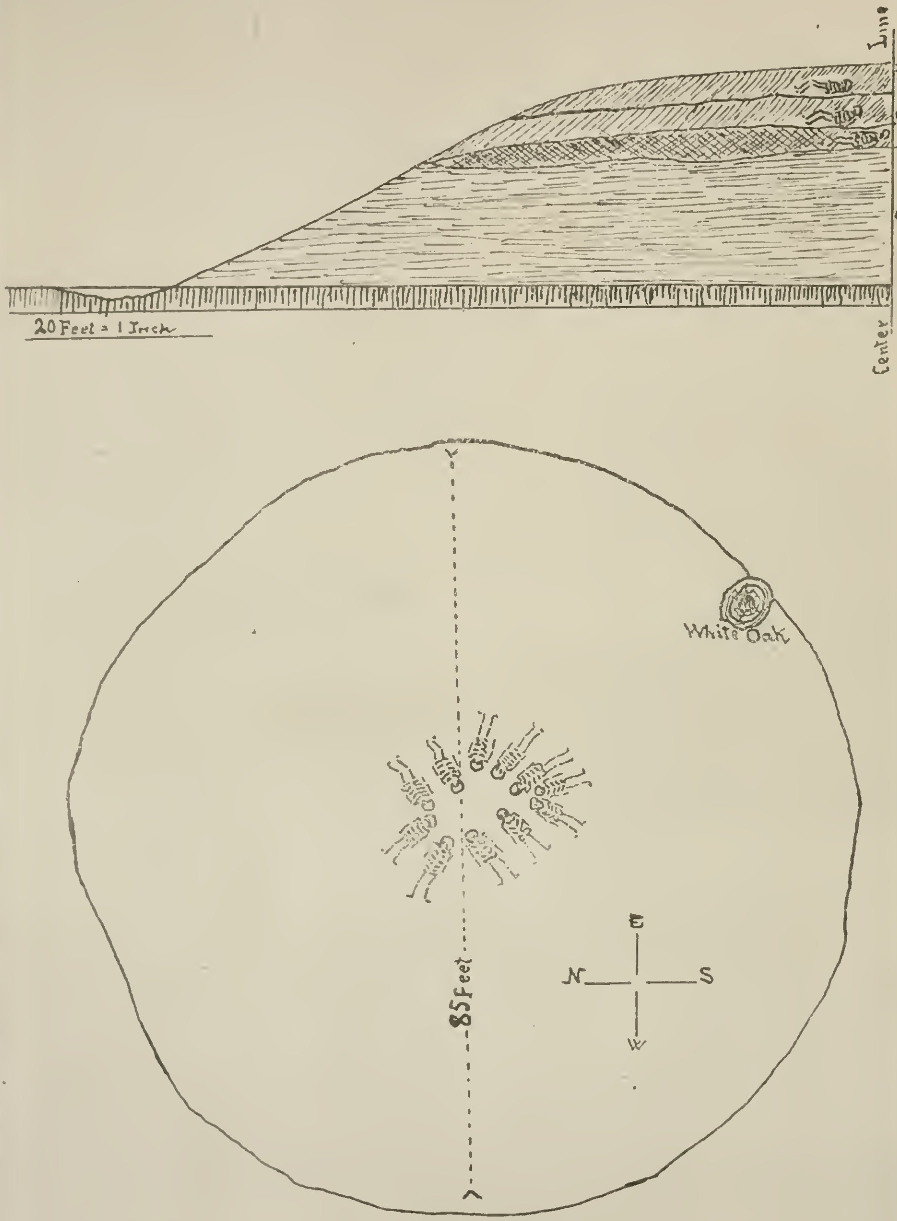
The adjective "New" was applied to this continent at the time of its discovery by Columbus, and the "New World" it has remained ever since. The researches of geologists have revealed to us, however, that this continent has not only furnished to geology the oldest landmarks, but has also given us evidences in favor of a high advancement of art contemporaneous with the civilization of some of the oldest nations of Africa, Asia and Europe.

Ever since the adoption of America by the Caucasian race, the greatest interest has been manifested in the origin of the people from whom the intruders wrested a new home for themselves. Explorations have resulted, as it were, in the formation of two factions of ethnologists; one contending for a unity of the purely Indian race, and the other for pre-existing races and a subsequent continuity and infusion of other than purely Indian element. The latter faction, who found their chief advocate in Dr. T. M. Harris, saw proofs of skill and culture implying the hand of a superior race, and the influence of a higher civilization. On the other hand, the followers of Bishop Madison could see in the relics of the mound builders no evidence of art higher than, or of tendencies different from those of existing Indians. What bearing the results of our investigations in Louisiana, and those of Mr. Cushing in Marco, Florida, may have upon the question at issue, we leave to the discernment of the reader.

The investigations into Louisiana archæology, commenced during the summer of 1896, were continued this year under the auspices of the Tulane University and the Louisiana Historical Society. In the following pages I have endeavored to delineate the results of the excavations of mounds located in certain sections of Franklin and Natchitoches parishes. I have also tried to draw comparisons between the materials collected, and to determine the relative positions which our Louisiana earthworks occupy toward each other.

The work was begun June 22, on a mound located on the property of Mr. C. H. Snyder, of Como, Franklin parish. The mound is on the edge of a small cypress brake and a short distance from the left bank of Brown's Bayou. It was of medium size, having but eighty-five feet base diameter and a height of eight feet, with a surface area of fifty feet. It was covered with vegetation, several large trees growing on the northwest slope. The trench around the base was still discernible. On the edge of the mound and the trench a white oak flourished until a year ago, when it was sawed down.

The level surface of the stump, however, was so badly disfigured by exposure as to render the accurate counting of the cortical layers an impossibility when the centre was approached. I was enabled to reach the number of 251 rings,



Snyder Mound, Como, Franklin Parish La.

Plate I.

but at the very heart a width of fully nine or ten inches had to be left uncounted. Sixty or seventy rings, however, could have been added, which would have placed the age of that tree at 300 years and more. (Plate I.)

No matter how much the correctness of counting the age of our forest trees by the number of cortical layers may be questioned, it is certain that the white oak referred to only commenced to grow after the construction of the mound; but then the question remains, how much later? Further on I shall have to return to the subject of vegetation on mounds, and will therefore continue with the exploration of the mound under consideration.

After penetrating the superficial layer of clay, I found human bones at a depth of about fifteen or eighteen inches; they were badly decayed and scarcely permitted touching. The shaft being a little west of the centre, and about five feet square, encountered only the skulls, some of which were lying very close together. I removed the earth further around, and found the bodies extended toward the circumference of the mound. All bodies in this layer were buried in a circular manner. No signs of pottery or implements were disclosed. The line of demarcation between the first and second layer was scarcely visible. About eighteen inches below the skeletons just mentioned, another layer with a much larger number of bodies, buried in a like manner, was unearthed. While endeavoring to remove some of the skulls, I was impressed with the singular position which they occupied to the rest of the skeleton; instead of the crown of the head lying in a straight line with the body, the vertex was at right angles, and the face looking toward the feet, instead of upward. Owing to the decayed condition of the bones, and the very compact settling of the mound, which caused the embedded bones to be disturbed from their original position, it was next to impossible to count them, but in the two layers there must have been at least thirty or thirty-five bodies.

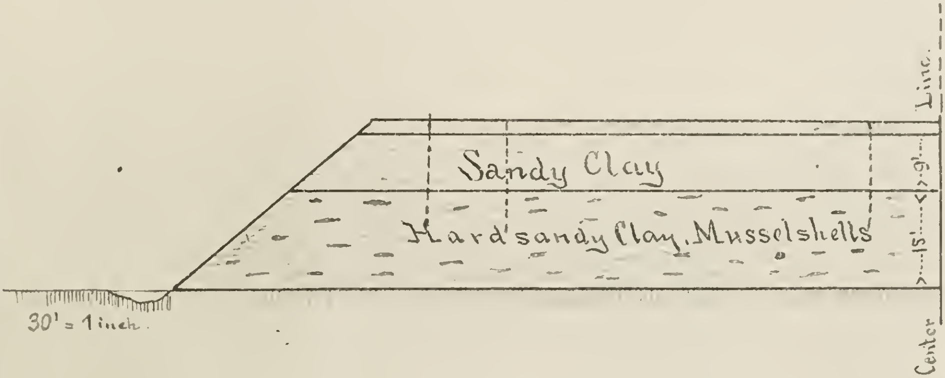
After their removal a distinct line appeared to indicate a change ot material. Now and then, the spade or pick would come into contact with a small unio-valve. and once only a broken arrow-point was encountered. Of pottery the only sign was an undecorated piece about two inches square, which evidently was a fragment when it entered the mound. In the third layer of rather sandy clay I found two skeletons. One had been buried with the feet toward the south, the other toward the northeast. I removed one of the fractured skulls, and while picking the loose soil from its interior, a well-shaped arrow-point fell out, indicating at once the cause of death. A nearly completely decayed pot with a rather unusual design scratched into it was discovered within a few inches of the head. A small fragment only was secured.

In point of size all the bodies indicated a much smaller stature than those of Larto and other mounds found later on. The type of skull is figured in Plate III, and presents no exceptional points from other purely Indian types. The exploration of this mound resulted in its complete destruction.

The next mound to which I turned my attention is located only two miles by air line northeast of the Snyder mound, and not more than 500 yards from the right bank of Bayou Macon. This proved to be of considerable interest from the fact of its being so far the only rectangular mound in Louisiana, west of the Mississippi. It covers considerable space, the base dimensions being about 240 feet northwest to southeast, and 130 feet northeast to southwest. Its height is, at present, between 22 and 23 feet, with a surface area of 6750 square feet. The entire mound was covered with vegetation, several large sweet-gum, walnut and hickory trees growing on the sides.

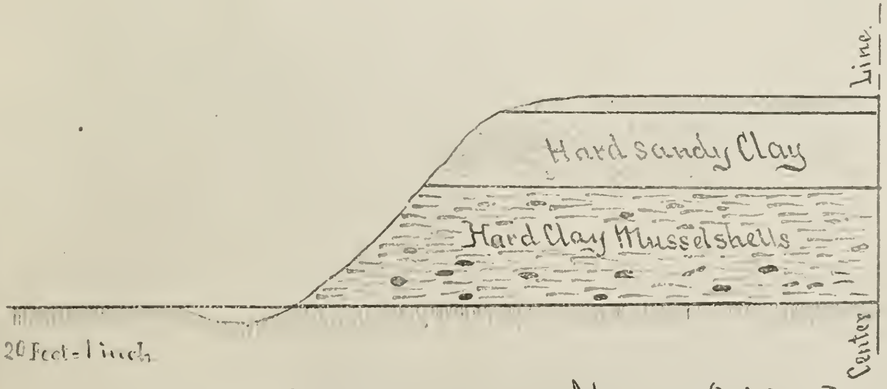
The northwest slope appeared to be greatly washed; it was, therefore, impossible to determine if there had existed on that side of the mound a terrace or not. The top has evidently been under cultivation, for the furrows were still visible. Close examination of the entire surface failed to show broken pottery or even flint fragments. Four excavations were made into the mound. The first was carried to the depth of about nine feet, through very hard and compact sandy clay. Not a vestige of anything else was found until some mussel

Fig 1.



Vertical section Brannin-Mound. Como, La.

Fig. 2.



Vertical section Lewis · Mound Oakley, La.

PLATE II.

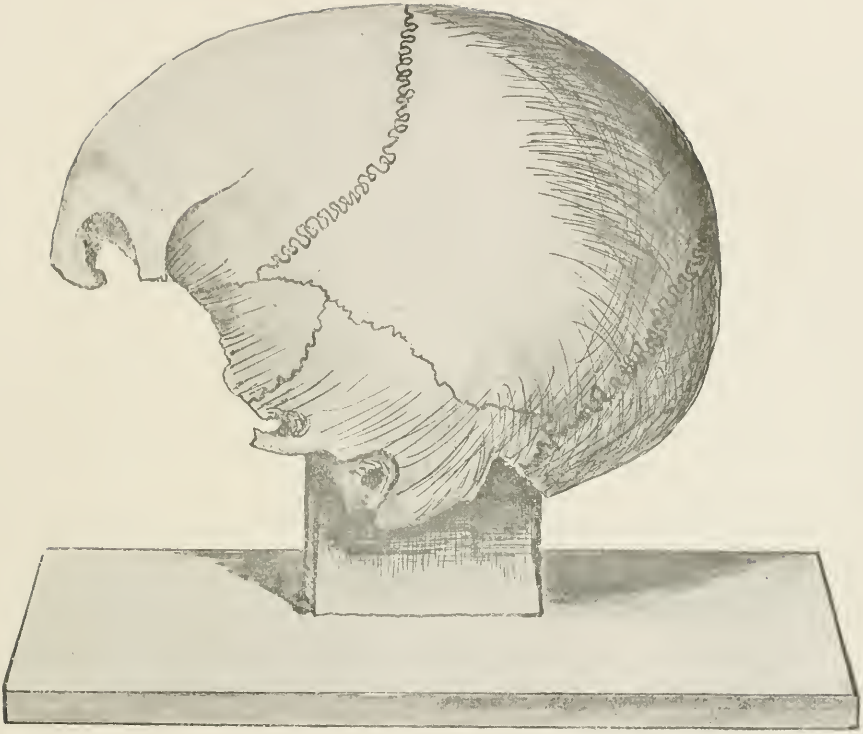


Plate III.

shells appeared, indicating at the same time a change of material. The soil was now a compact and greasy clay.

On the following day another excavation was made about eight feet northeast of the first It was carried deeper, but no other conditions or evidences were brought to light. A third attempt to procure better results proved as futile as a fourth one.

Both of these trenches were directed from the northeast and northwest sides, and only three or four feet from the base. The hard sandy clay and the mussel shells extended throughout the lower portion of the mound to a height of 14 or 15 feet; the line between this and the upper portion was well defined, and clearly indicated different periods of construction. Its location and height and the absence of all debris of either habitation or burial shows that this so-called Brannin mound was in all likelihood used for signal or sacrificial purposes. (See Plate II, Fig. 1.)

About ten miles south of Como there is a connecting branch between Bayou Macon and Deer Creek, called Cut-off Bayou. Some time during the summer of 1884, and soon after the high water, which had flooded that section, Dr. Griffin, a resident of Oakley, discovered human remains in one of the deep rain washes. Upon further investigation he unearthed several skeletons of adults and infants, as well as some articles of pottery. The latter were recovered entire, and finally sent as part of the Louisiana exhibit to the Chicago Exposition. I investigated the locality on several occasions, and found that it was the site of three mounds, about half a mile apart. The first one, at the junction of Bayou Macon and Cut-off Bayou, was in the form of breastworks, whereas the second, which is about 800 yards further down on Cut-off Bayou, is of oval shape.

The land on which this second mound is located has been under cultivation for many years; in fact, it was one of the first clearings in that section of the parish, and consequently but little of the mound was left when I investigated it. It was evidently never a very high one, although it must have covered a considerable area. The deep gullies, caused by rain, made a thorough examination comparatively easy, and one day's work sufficed to bring to light the remaining portions of the mound. It was impossible, however, to find out whether there had been more than one layer in the course of construction. I found partial remains of two adult skeletons, apparently buried from southwest to northeast. Pottery, broken into small fragments, was lying around in quantities, some plain, some decorated.* Not more than eighteen or twenty inches from the surface I recovered a few arrow points and the end prong of a deer-antler. In one place at about the same depth I came upon a very large piece of friable sandstone, which, as I ascertained afterward, was used to sharpen and polish the stone implements.

Next I turned my attention to the third structure of this group—the Lewis mound. Scarcely inferior in dimensions to the Brannin mound, it differed from it in not being rectangular. It has a base diameter of about 160 feet and a height of 20. The top surface is thickly covered with weeds and grass, while the sides support a number of large trees. Broken bits of pottery and flint fragments are lying scattered on the surface, and considerable amount of this litter has washed down into the still existing trench. Although the mound has always been jealously guarded by its owners, from whom I readily obtained permission to explore it, some one had succeeded in boring a large hole into the very centre. A great many people living in mound regions, nowadays, are imbued with the idea that these structures contain treasures. Frequently one hears of persons having tried to find the gold of Pirate Macon hidden in a certain mound; a great many of the real treasures of these mounds, therefore, are destroyed and scattered through the avarice of such benighted fortune hunters. Upon opening the hole, which had only been partially refilled, I found the mound constructed of hard, sandy clay, which remained unchanged to a depth of eight feet. Not a sign of human remains was unearthed, however. I abandoned work here and started to cut a trench from the east side, beginning

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* See Plate V, Fig. 1.

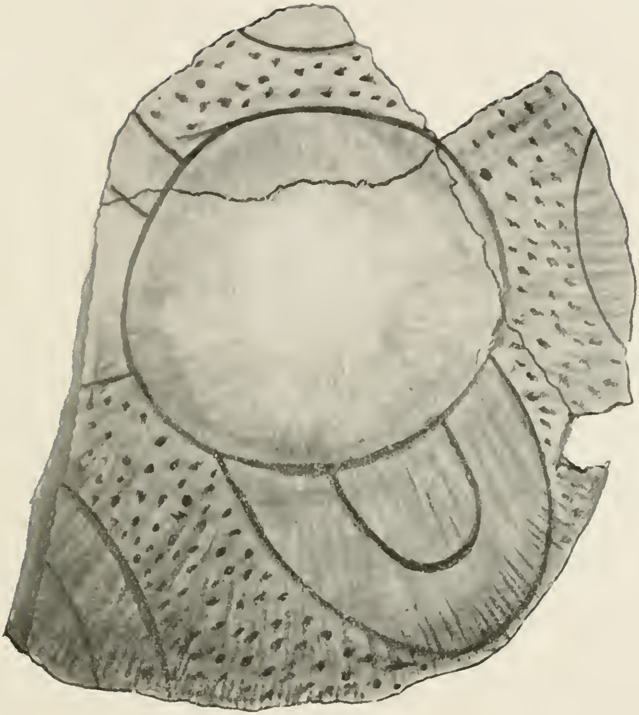


Fig. 1.

Plate V.

about three feet above the base. Hard clay, with unio-shells freely intermingled, was the composition of, apparently, the entire mound. The sharp line of demarcation between the stratum of clay liberally interspersed with mussel shells and the one devoid of them seems to indicate that a long time elapsed before the upper layer was added. (See Plate II, Fig. 2.)

I discovered the remains of a skeleton; the principal portion, however, had already washed down the slope. It was impossible to determine the direction in which the body had been buried. No vessels or implements were found. Owing to the approach of night the work had to be abandoned, and other mounds claiming my attention afterward, no further operations were prosecuted on this structure.

Not more than one-half mile north of the Snyder mound (see map of Franklin parish) I found a most remarkable group of mounds. For nearly two miles two parallel rows of these structures extend in a northwesterly direction. Originally none of them were of great dimensions, but today only traces of many of them are left. They were all of small size, the largest not having more than forty-five feet base diameter with a height of four and a half feet; the majority are much smaller. They are about equidistant apart and fairly regular in arrangement. I examined the surroundings of a great number of them, but could not detect any outward signs of human activity, their construction, of course, excepted. Immediately in the road which leads off from the Delhi road to the Brannin mound, there are two of these small mounds, both of which I examined. A central excavation about four feet square was made, and carried about eighteen inches below the level. The material of which the mounds were constructed was hard, sandy clay throughout without any stratification. In the one farthest from the main road the signs of a single burial, not more than eighteen inches from the surface, were noticeable. The bones were completely decayed, and only the well-defined contour of the chalky matter in the hard clay made it possible to recognize the skeleton, which had evidently been buried in a northwesterly direction. Not the smallest fragment of pottery or implement was discovered with the skeleton or in any part of either mound. I examined afterward four others of these small structures, but with no better results. I believe we can assume with certainty that we have before us in this group the house sites of an ancient village. By glancing at the plan of these mounds, another smaller group which ranges along the right bank of Brown's Bayou will be seen. I did not locate them myself. The source of information, however, is such a reliable one that I did not hesitate to indicate them on the plan. To judge by the description the mounds are about the same size as those I had examined. The distance between the two chains is scarcely half a mile.

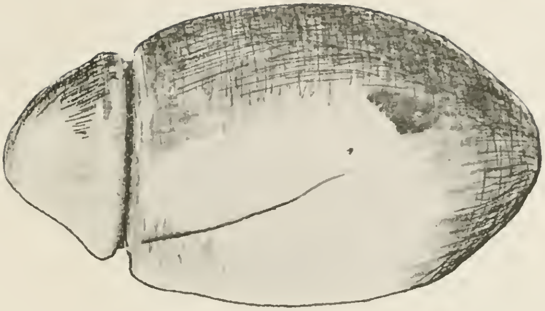
The next group to which I turned my attention is situated about ten miles from Como, on the left bank of Bayou Macon, on the farm of Mr. T. A. Harris. I was indebted to him for the privilege of examination as well as considerable information in regard to the structure of these earthworks as they appeared many years ago. Mr. Harris' farm was one of the first in that section of our State, and the original log house, still in existence, was erected in 1811 by his father. The cypress timbers which were used in building the house are as good to-day as they were then. While clearing the woods three mounds were discovered. On some, so Mr. Harris' father told his family many times, large trees were growing, and for years afterward no one was permitted to disturb the mounds. Within the last twenty or twenty-five years the plows have made sad havoc with their surfaces. Vessels, stone hatchets, skin-scrapers and arrow-heads have been brought up time and again. Skeletons of the mound architects have been torn from their resting place, and the scattered fragments of bones are slowly disappearing now.

In years gone by, even before the settlement of this farm, Bayou Macon made in its course a very sharp, horseshoe-shaped turn. Evidently the stream, cutting across the intervening space, transformed a part of its former bed into the so-called Harris lake. From the position of the mounds it would appear that this transformation took place after their construction, for the lake bed has been filling up continually and scarcely two feet of water now remains in any part of the lake.

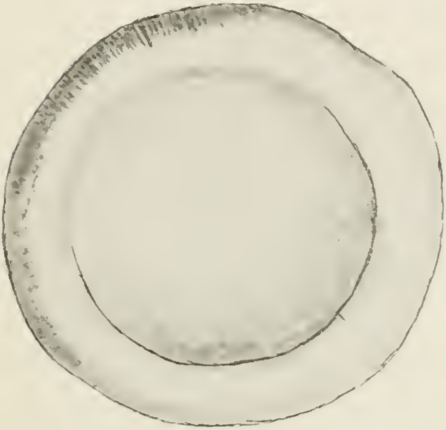
Three of the mounds are close together, while a fourth is about two miles down on the bayou. It was not examined. The largest mound is designated as No. 1 on the plan. It is oval, 200 feet long, 100 feet wide and 10 feet high. Continuous ploughing had reduced the original height five feet or more. Of the circumvallations hardly any marks are left. As the entire mound was under cultivation the excavations could not be carried on very extensively. Southwest of the centre I made a trench about eight feet long, two feet wide and four feet deep. The mound appeared to be constructed entirely of rather greasy clay. The superficial layer could not be determined, as most all of it had been removed. While digging the trench nothing was brought to light, but upon moving a little further west, and within eighteen inches of the surface, I found human bones, which seemed to belong to a single individual. Removal was impossible, owing to decay. Near this skeleton a small green stone axe was found. Other implements taken from this mound are of considerable interest, but were found without any definite position, and immediately under the surface. Of considerable value is a piece of stone, about three inches thick, which had been used as a mortar; the pestle belonging to it is nearly globular and very symmetrical. Of equal interest are two large celts, one of flint, the other of porphyry, as well as a plummet of red sandstone.

Mound No. 2 of this group was more extensively explored. It is located near the edge of the lake. The larger part has been under cultivation for nearly twenty years, but the remaining portion had been disturbed very little. It was originally a large structure, and must have measured fully 200 feet at its base diameter. Before it was cultivated it had a height of 15 feet; at present, scarcely one-half of that is left. Entire skeletons, pottery and other relics had been found, but never kept. In what I judged to be the centre of the mound, I started the excavation, which, however, was not carried to a great extent on account of the growing crop.

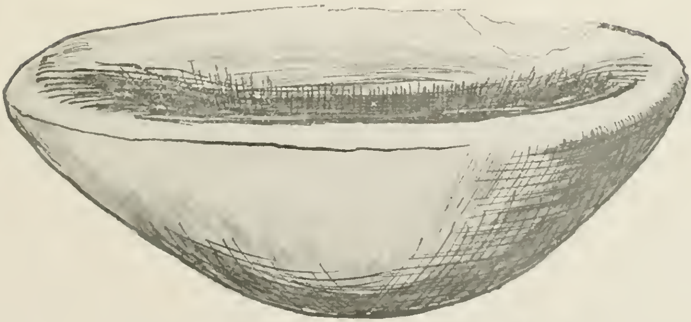
This part of the structure was composed of clay and showed no stratification. Mussel shells were found in considerable numbers. Believing that the structure would be better shown and more remains might be found in the small portion claimed to have remained intact, I sank two trenches, the first one on the north slope, the other a few feet to the eastward. Within six inches of the surface I found portions of a skeleton, but, as no long bones appeared with it, I could not determine the position. The skeleton was lying close to the field fence, and unquestionably had been disturbed before. Near this body I picked up a well-shaped arrow-point, but, excepting numerous coarse and undecorated fragments of pottery, nothing else was unearthed. The other excavation disclosed the same features of construction. Large and small shells were scattered throughout the entire mound structure, presenting the conventional two-horned dilemma, whether they entered the mound composition accidentally, or were introduced with a purpose. There were hardly any more than two or three together, and many times a foot or more of earth did not contain any. The mound builders undoubtedly used the mollusks as food article, yet why should the shells appear either singly or in such small quantities in one place and be distributed with almost regularity in another, unless it was done intentionally? The shells belonged to two species of unio, which must have been plentiful during the mound-building period. The smallest of Harris' group (No. 3) is about a quarter of a mile further down on Bayou Macon. Like the others, though, only a semblance of it is left. Very little pottery was found in former years. Mr. Harris assured me that there never were any traces of human bodies. Although I did not expect much information by excavations of this mound, I nevertheless sank a central shaft to the base. The mound was composed of hard clay, but, strange to say, the mussel shells were entirely absent. Outside of a few small pieces of coarse pottery which were lying on the sur-



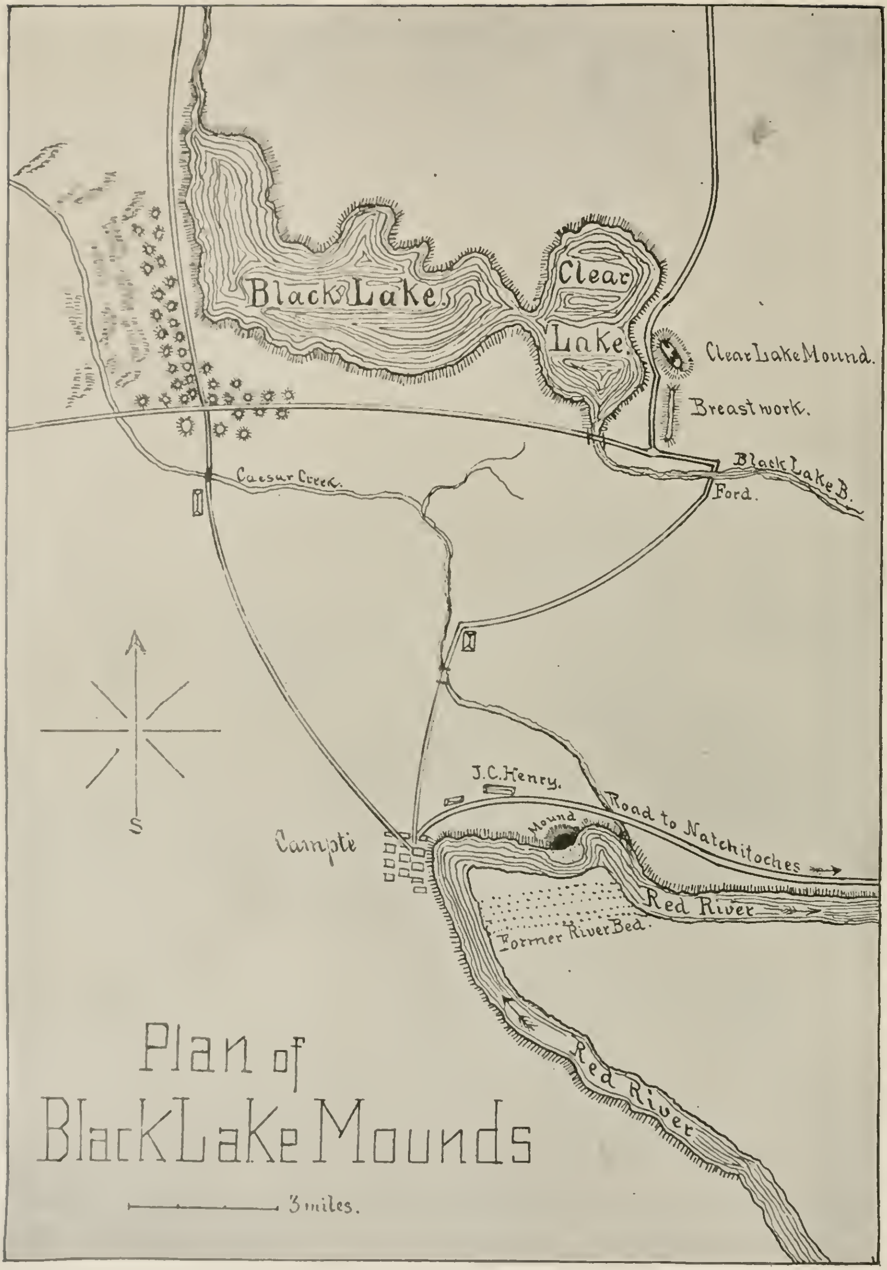
Plummet, from Harris Mound.



Discoidal Stone, Harris Mound.



Boat-shaped Object, Clear Lake Mound.



Plan of Black Lake Mounds

face I found no further clue to the people who once constructed and dwelt on these mounds.

Although I could have spent a much longer period in the investigation of other mounds in Franklin parish, where everybody was willing to aid me in my work, I concluded to proceed to Natchitoches. From there I had received an invitation to continue the explorations of a so-called Indian burying ground, instituted by a few gentlemen of that locality. All reports promised interesting developments, and my inspection of a vessel which had been sent to our institution determined me to visit the region as early as possible.

Some six or seven years ago Mr. J. C. Henry, a planter of Natchitoches, while passing along the water-worn bank of Red River, near Campti, La., observed human bones lying at the bottom of a small gully. Scanning the steep embankment, he perceived the spot from which they had fallen. He neglected to pay proper attention to his discovery until a few months ago, when, with the assistance of two or three gentlemen, he made an examination of the place, where, off and on, other human remains had become exposed. Unfortunately, the investigations were not carried out under such strict rules as their very nature and importance imperatively demanded, and consequently one of the richest of archeological harvests turned out almost a complete failure. Of the vessels which were found at the time, many were demolished in the attempt to remove them.

The day after my arrival on the plantation of Mr. Henry, where this burying ground was located, I commenced the work.

Several of the gentlemen who had previously examined the place were fortunately on hand also, and gave me an outline of the result of their work. They had found several skeletons, and near each skull one or two vessels. After working awhile, however, they had determined to replace the bones and to cover up the hole, which had been dug laterally into the bank, until a more thorough examination by our joint institutions could be made.

By removing the previously disturbed earth, I recovered the bones and fragments of vessels and an almost entire skull. Notwithstanding numerous attempts to find another larger and more perfect skull, which had been reinterred by Mr. Henry and his companions, the search proved fruitless. The loss of that skull is a most deplorable one, as its preservation would have gone far to crown our efforts in establishing the identity of the aboriginal inhabitants of our State.

The peculiar position of this burial place puzzled us, and not until I made a smooth vertical cut of the river bank did I perceive the perfect outlines of a former mound, it having been imbedded in the embankment or levee, which was raised in or about the year 1867 by the United States engineers as a protection from overflow. A glance at the plan of this mound (Plate VIII.) will easily demonstrate its peculiar position. The plan will show how the river has been, and still is, encroaching upon its left bank. Originally its bed was a mile or more away from where it is now. All along its course extends a level country, and in past ages this was subject to periodic inundations. Upon this level the aborigines heaped the mound. Slowly but surely the river gained on its bank, until finally it reached the mound and succeeded in engulfing fully two-thirds of it and its contents in its muddy waters. One-third only was left when I began the examination; after I had finished not a vestige remained, except the loose earth which had tumbled down the steep embankment.

The mound itself was not a large one, although it may have had a base diameter of fifty feet. Its height also has diminished considerably. At the time of examination it measured only a few inches over six feet. The so-called core of the mound, which measured about four feet from top to base, consisted of exceedingly hard, dark-brown clay. Resting immediately upon it, and imbedded in a layer of red sandy clay, were the skeletons, the heads southeast, the feet northwest. The exploration by Mr. Henry and his friends yielded two bodies; all further work disclosed but one more, of which, however, the skull was missing. The bones were in a tolerably good state of preservation, and in size and general appearance resembled those from the Larto mounds. The vessels

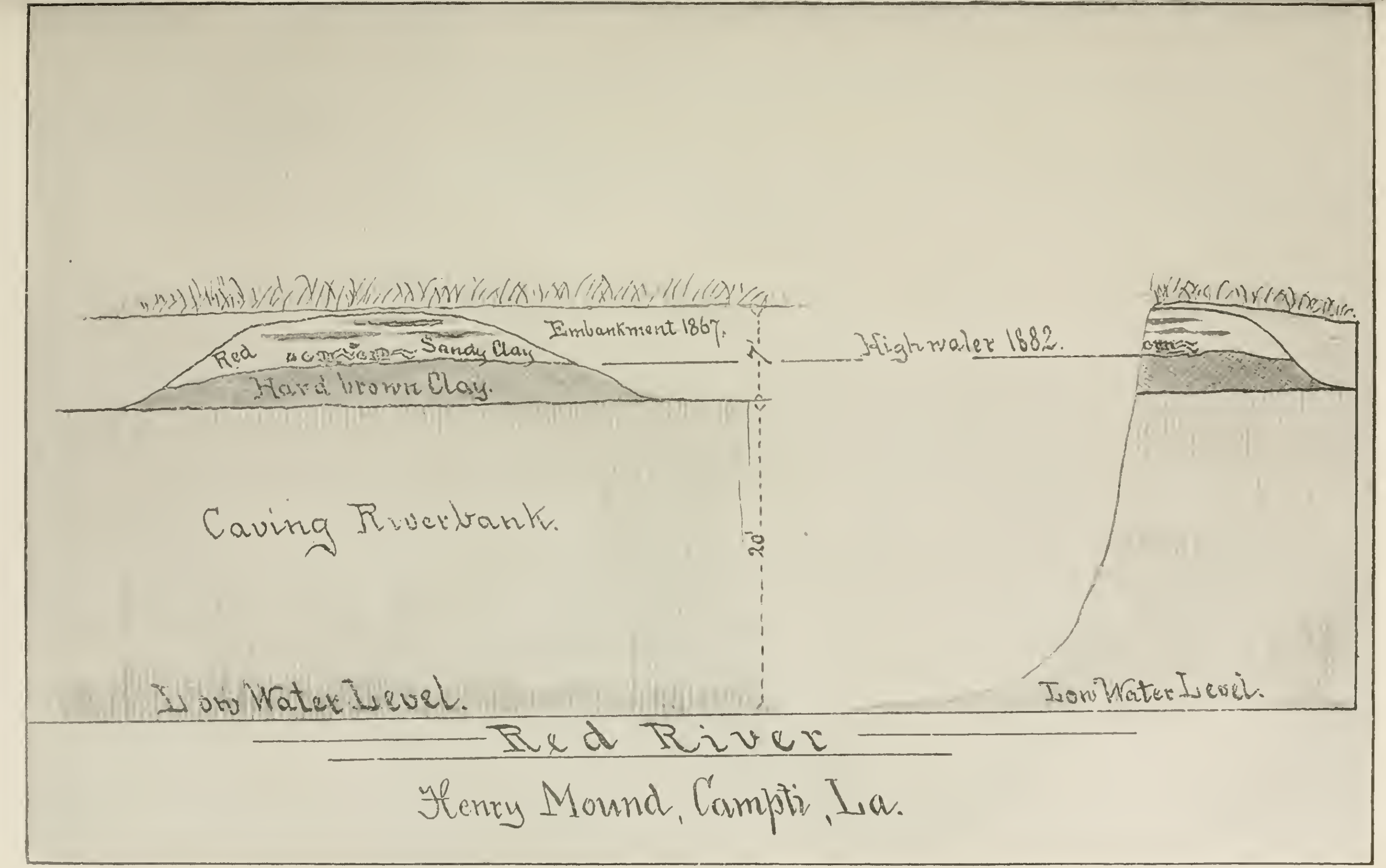

Embankment 1867.
Red
Sandy Clay
Hard brown Clay.
High water 1882.
20'
Caving Riverbank.
Low Water Level.
Low Water Level.
Red River
Henry Mound, Campti, La.

PLATE VIII.

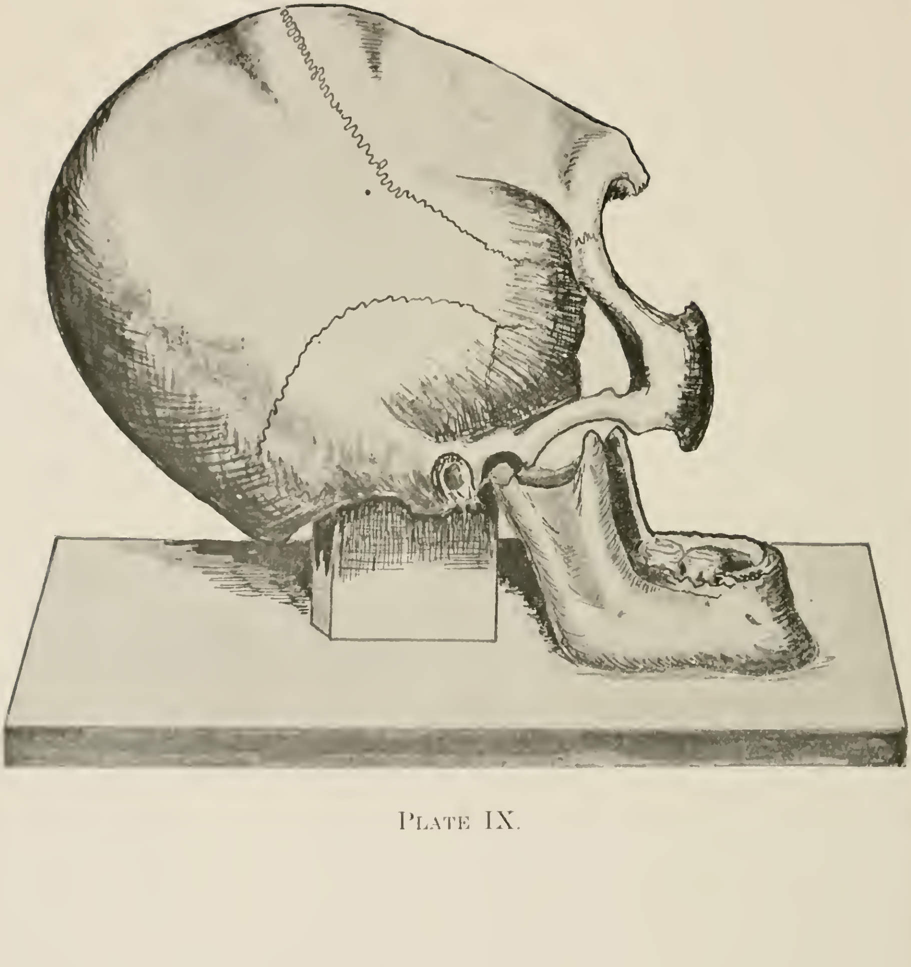


Plate IX.

had been found deposited close to the left side of each skull. The layer of red clay in which the bodies rested was about eighteen inches thick; above it was an ash-bed, some of the wood of which had only been converted into charcoal. The layer of ashes did not extend entirely over the surface of the mound, nor was it of the same thickness throughout. In the ashes I found quite a number of unio and anodon shells and the plastron of a small turtle (Pseudomys). The ashes were covered by a layer of red clay, about ten inches in thickness; resting on it, another ashbed, much smaller in extent, was noticed. The wood had been entirely consumed. and very little charcoal was left behind. No pottery was found in or near it. The last layer, which had covered the entire mound, consisted of red sandy clay. The decaying vegetation formed a blackened demarcation, clearly outlining the mound in the levee. The latter had been undoubtedly instrumental in the otherwise perfect preservation of the mound and its contents, and if its exploration had been systematically commenced and carried through, the yield in valuable material, as well as a better knowledge of its position. could have been obtained. Next to the Larto mounds. it was certainly the most interesting and valuable one.

The skeletons in this structure showed a remarkable degree of preservation; they resembled in color those from Larto lake. and are in this and other respects very different from the bones of other mounds. The very remarkable formation of the skull, which characterizes the anomalous type of the Catahoula mound builders, we find here again represented. To judge by the size, the skull figured in Plate IX is evidently that of an aged female. At first sight a slight difference is noticeable. especially in the angle of the rami and in the alveolar and basilar portions of the inferior maxillary bones.

The Larto specimens are represented by a fully matured individual of about 35 years of age. The ramus is vertical, and almost at right angles in its position to the body of the lower jaw, and the alveolar portion is of about the same dimensions as the basilar. In this Henry mound skull, however, the alveolar part being more absorbed, the basilar appears greater, and the rami are more oblique in their direction, the angle thereby becoming more obtuse. In all other most essential features, it is identical with the Larto skulls.

Even before I examined the specimen myself, the gentlemen who first opened the mound noticed at once the flat[*] and retreating forehead, which, so they assured me afterward, was even more noticeable in the specimens which unfortuately were not preserved.

The recurrence of these skulls this time in another section of the State will bear out the assertion, which I made last year, that we have to regard them as belonging to a type, either entirely distinct from any other so far known, or as representatives of the acient Caribs, with whom they are identical in formation and measurements, as may be seen by a comparison of the various diameters in the table:

DIAMETERS.

	Longitudinal. Inches.	Parietal. Inches.	Frontal. Inches.	Vertical. Inches.
1. Catahoula skull[†]	6.4	6.2	5.0	5.3
2. Carib	6.5	6.2	4.9	5.3
3. Natchitoches	5.9	6.0	4.6	5.5
4. Snyder Mound	7.0	5.8	4.8	5.7
5. Waukesha	6.5	5.3	4.6	5.9
6. Rockbridge	6.5	5.4	4.7	5.9

In comparing the longitudinal diameters of the first two skulls the difference is only .1 of an inch. The parietal and vertical diameters are alike, but in the frontal the difference of .1 of an inch is in favor of the Catahoula skull. The sex of the skull of the Red river mound is evidently the cause of the discrepancy in the longitudinal and frontal diameters, as compared with the former two skulls, but we find an increase in the vertical diameter of .2 of an inch in its favor.

If we consider the skull dimensions in the aggregate of the

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[*] By using the term "flat," the reader should not imagine that the frontal bone is entirely devoid of its natural prominences. On the contrary, the frontal eminences are well marked and show no sign of having been hindered in their development by artificial compression, which would have been necessary to produce the otherwise peculiar formation of the frontal bone. In respect to these eminences, and, in fact, in the formation of the entire plane of the os frontis, these skulls coincide with those of the Caribs.

[†] Owing to a defect in the instrument, when I measured the Catahoula skull last year, a slight discrepancy occurs in the figures of the table above.

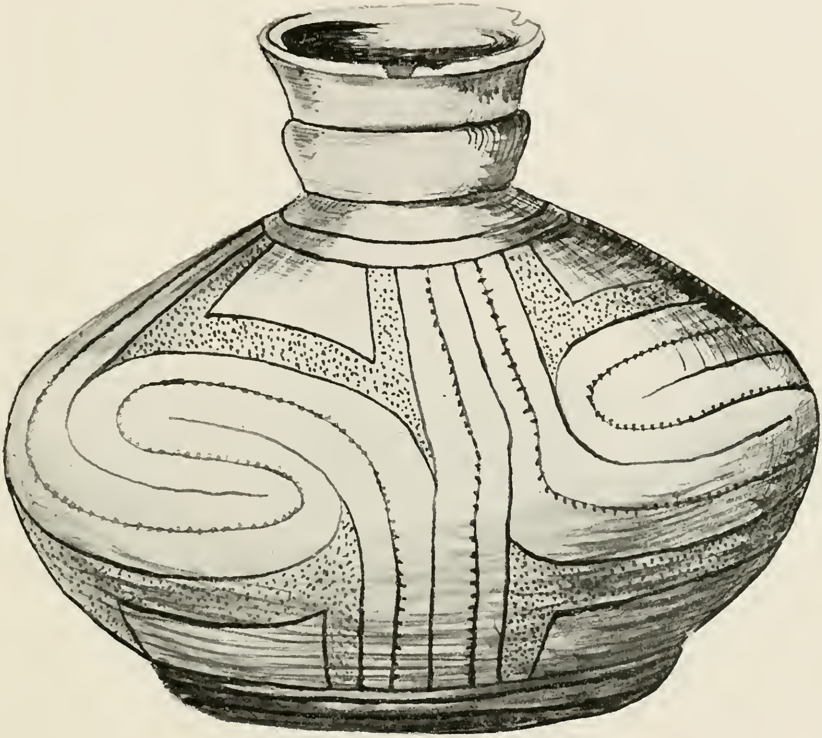


Plate X

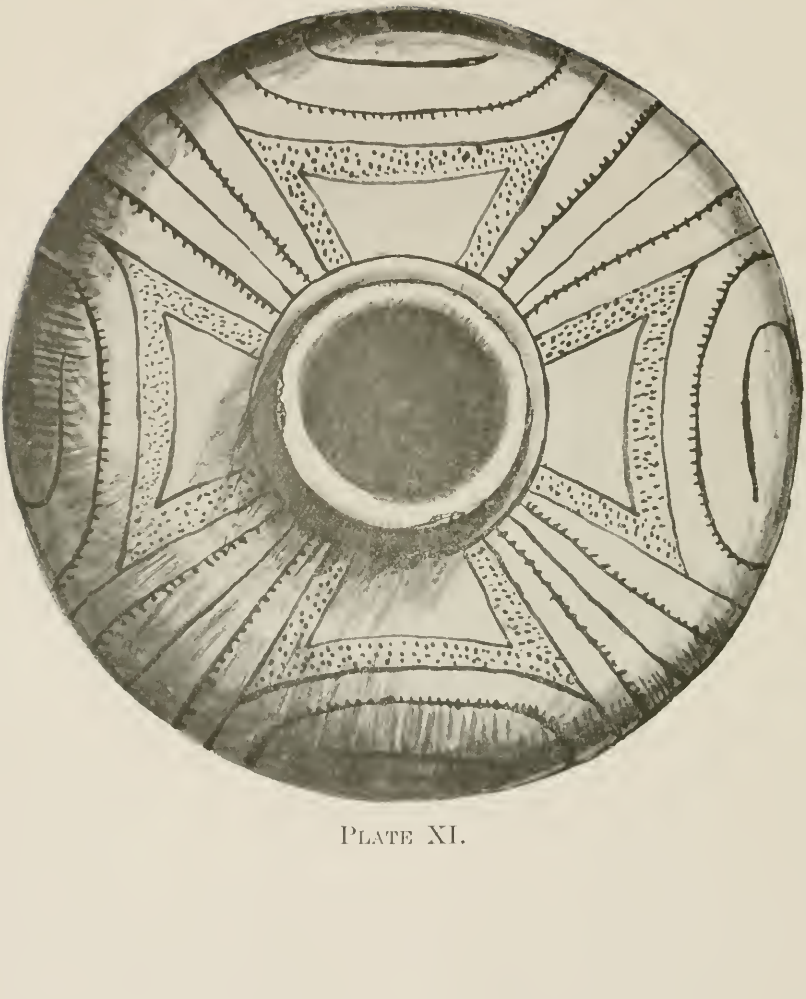


Plate XI.

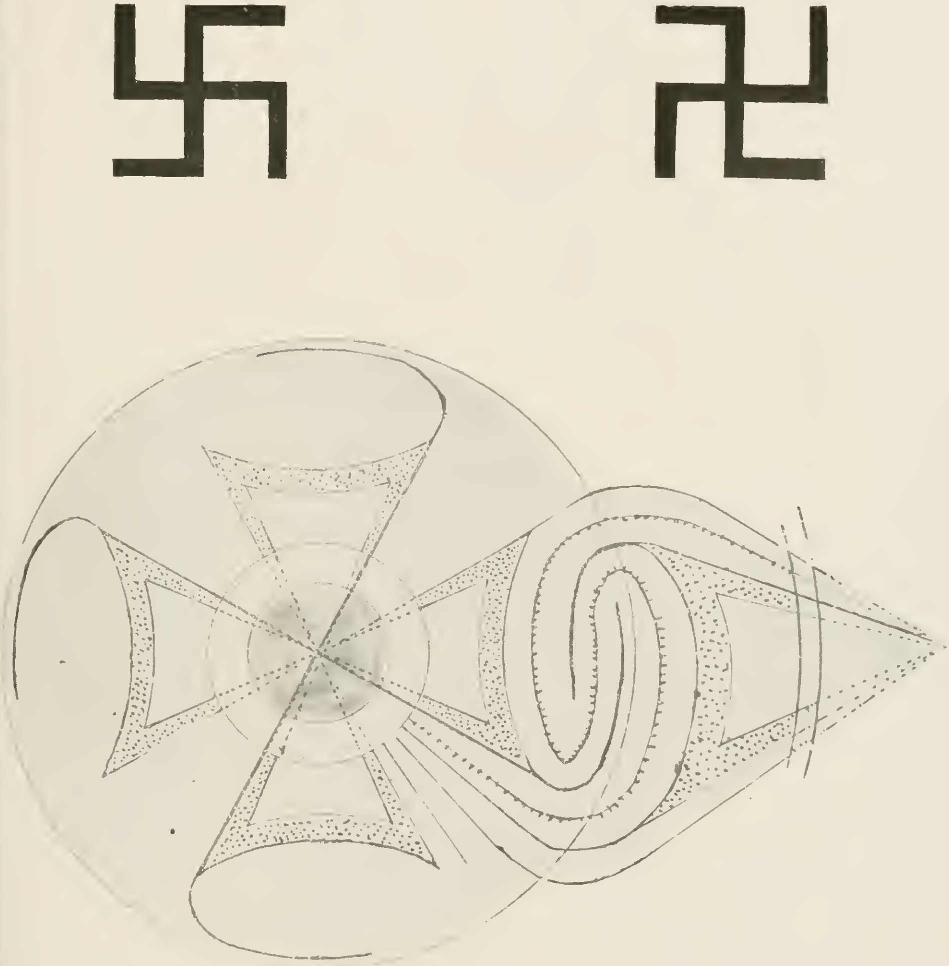


Plate XII.

first three, against the aggregate of the Snyder, Waukesha and Virginia mound skulls, we must admit that the differences in the diameters equalize themselves, and that the brain capacity remains virtually the same in both divisions. Consequently, the apparent total absence of the frontal arch is no indication of inferior intellect, which appears to be corroborated by an inspection of pottery exhumed with them.

Subsequent developments, such as the remarkable finds of Mr. Frank H. Cushing, at Marco, Florida, and the close resemblance of certain pieces of pottery found in the Lesser Antilles with some recovered from the Larto and other mounds, still further strengthens the evidence that at one time other races inhabited parts of the gulf coast, and very likely contributed to the continuity of races on our continent.

Professor Holmes discredits the existence of a paleolithic age in America. The finding of pottery, etc., belonging to the neolithic period in the shell and earth mounds in connection with the skeletons already referred to, can give therefore no weight to the doubts of their antiquity and their belonging to a prehistoric period.

I am, at present, not ready to pronounce the earth mounds of the coast line as contemporaneous with the shell heaps: neither will I admit, just now, that they were built before the coast inundation, as is believed of the latter, which seems to be fully established by Mr. Cushing's discoveries at Marco. The general appearance of the Larto, Red river and Black Lake mounds, as well as of others in the southern section of Louisiana, not yet explored, certainly greatly favors the assumption of a contemporaneous existence.

The most reliable information as to the origin of our ancestors we gain by careful comparisons of the objects found in the mounds of various localities. It really matters but little whether such relics are broken or entire—the smallest fragment sometimes revealing points of greater importance than an entire cooking pot. To the remains of the ceramic industry, therefore, we must now direct our attention.

Compared even with the handiwork of modern times, the vase figured in Plate X will stand severe criticism. The material of this relic was selected and prepared with care. The shape is almost faultless and the design of ornamentation is, to say the least, unique. I doubt that any other mounds of North America, so far explored, have yielded as fine an example of ancient ceramic art. The most interesting points, however, are the faithful delineations not only of the Maltese cross, so significant in itself, but combined with it that most ancient symbol of good luck and prosperity, the Swastika. In this instance the symbol is modified to a four-armed Ogee (Tetraskelion) with the arms bent to left instead of to the right.

Prof. Thomas Wilson, in his splendid monograph on the Swastika, its significance and migrations, says that the symbol found its way to the western hemisphere in prehistoric times. The first knowledge of its occurrence on objects of precolumbian origin was obtained when Dr. Edward Palmer, in 1881, found a shell-ornament with the designs of the Swastika on it, in a mound in Jefferson county, Tennessee.

To return to closer inspection of the vase, it will be noticed that the design is a double one. On Plate XII the diagram illustrates the principle, the centres of the arms of the Swastika and the Maltese crosses are situated in the mouth and bottom of the vessel, respectively. The bent ends of two Swastikas are overlapping each other, but are separated, as it were, by a punctured line, which runs from centre to centre around the entire vase, forming again into a united double Swastika. That the design is not merely an accidental one is sufficiently explained by its almost perfect symmetry and complication.

Whatever inference we may draw from the presence of two of the best known and most widely spread symbols, the Swastika and the Maltese cross, on objects taken from the Henry mound, must, at present, be only speculative. Of one point, however, we may be assured in connection with this object under consideration, that it is entirely too fine in execution to be ascribed to our North American Indians, but, on the contrary, indicates an introduction of foreign thought and element.

The vase in Plate XIII, Fig. 1, while lacking in symmetry,

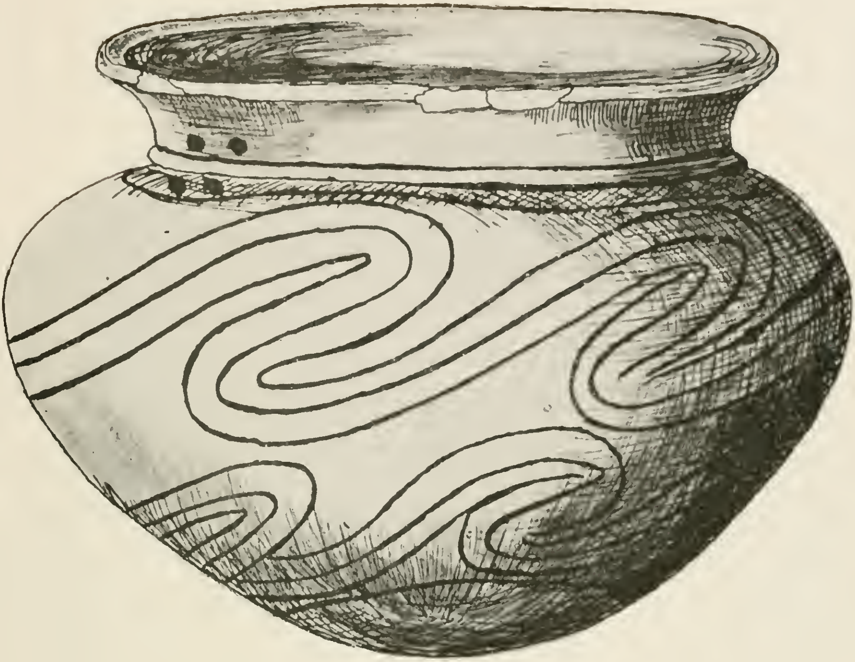


FIG. 1.

VASE FROM HENRY MOUND.

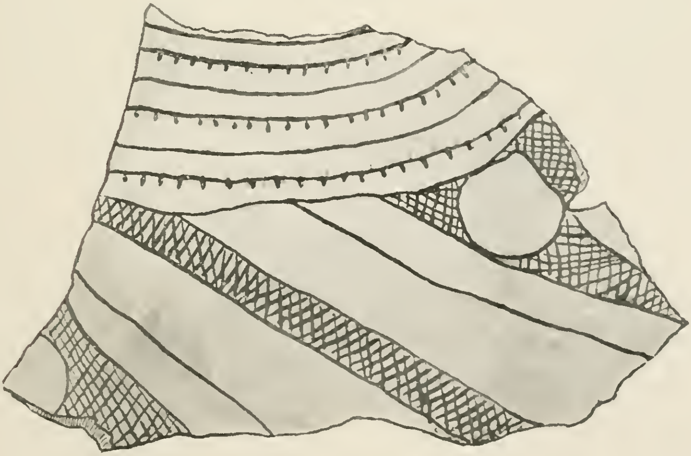


FIG. 2.

PLATE XIII.

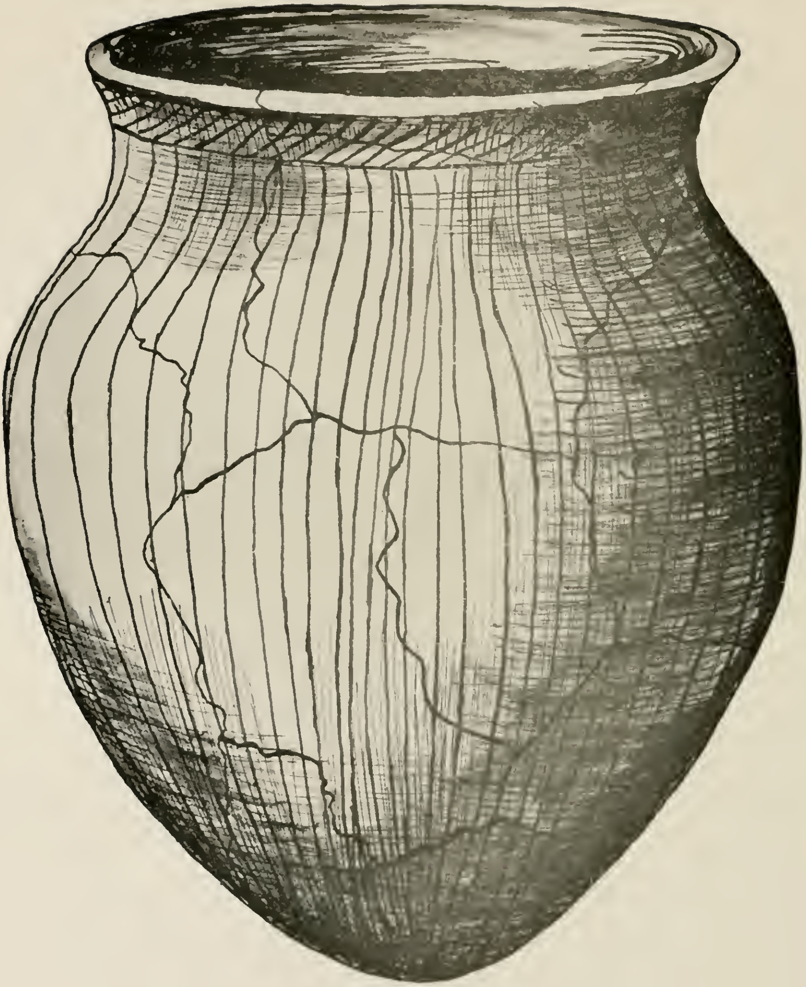


Plate XIV.

shows considerable taste in form as well as design. The position of the four perforations is somewhat unique, as they are on one side of the vessel only. The destruction of the vessel of which only a fragment was secured (Plate XIII, Fig. 2) is to be deplored, as the design incised on it has apparently been not only an intricate, but a pleasing one as well. The position of the rings and lines seems to indicate an ogee swastika. In general style and texture of material, this vessel was very similar to the one first described. Both still show signs of glazing.

Another curiously shaped pot is figured on Plate XIV. With the exception of the rim it is devoid of ornamentation, but seems to have had hard and frequent usage and exposure to fire, for it is completely encrusted with soot. It is almost too small to have served as a cooking pot, besides it was hardly strong enough for such a purpose, being quite thin and fragile.

The shell of Busycon perversum has undoubtedly been used as a drinking cup. It is devoid of decoration, and, with the exception of the removed columella, was left in its original state.

Excepting a few roughly chipped pieces of chert and a number of very large Anodonta shells, nothing else was found in the mound.

After completing my investigations of the Red river mound I turned my attention to a large structure about twelve miles northeast of Campti. This mound is situated in the bottom of the so-called Clear Lake. It is only during the time of high water that the Black Lake Bayou overflows its banks and inundates the flat lands for some distance along its course, and thus forms Black lake, a part of which, being devoid of trees, takes therefore the name of Clear Lake. Alongside the road leading to the mound I noticed a peculiar straight but low and narrow structure, running due north and south. Examination proved that it was of human origin, and served very likely as a sort of breastwork. The structure is about fifty feet long, and no more than three to four feet high. The narrow base diameter averages about eight feet. As time was very limited I could not investigate this structure thoroughly. Some fifty feet from its northern end stands the mound, which proved to be quite a long one. It is oblong in shape, its long diameter running northwest to southeast. Owing to its water-worn condition it was impossible to form an adequate idea of its original size, but its base measured probably more than 150 feet in length and nearly 60 feet in width. The northwestern slope was badly washed, exposing, however, some of the internal structure, which consisted principally of red sandy clay. The sides of the mound had supported considerable vegetation.

While quite a number of trees had died long ago—only their decaying roots still existing—others are still flourishing, especially a large white oak on the summit. The trunk of this tree measures about three feet three or four inches in diameter.

In the table prepared some years ago by Dr. Lapham on the growth of native forest trees of Wisconsin, the white oak is noted for one foot of growth in 107 years. The age of the tree in question is therefore 347 years, but Dr. Foster, in "Prehistoric Races," expresses himself: "There can be no means of determining how many sucesssive forests may have preceded the present and occupied the soil since any given epoch, as that of the mound builders, all traces of the former trees having been long since effaced. A few years suffice to convert a fallen trunk into humus that can not be distinguished from the other portions of the accumulating soil."

Looking carefully over the surface of the mound and the partially existing depression around the base, I found a few pieces of pottery and chipped flint, though nothing at all in such quantity as many of the smaller mounds usually show. The structure is rather out of the way and the land around has scarcely been cultivated to such an extent as would explain the removal of relics, either entire or broken. About thirty feet from the base we picked up a broken stone pestle, and near the bridge crossing Black Lake Bayou the peculiar boat-shaped stone object figured on Plate —, Fig. 1. For what purposes this peculiar object was used is hard to conceive. In size and shape it resembles one found in the Larto mounds, with the exception of not having any perforations. Considerable time and care must have been bestowed on its manufacture, and its purpose, therefore, may not have been a trivial one. The material is green stone.

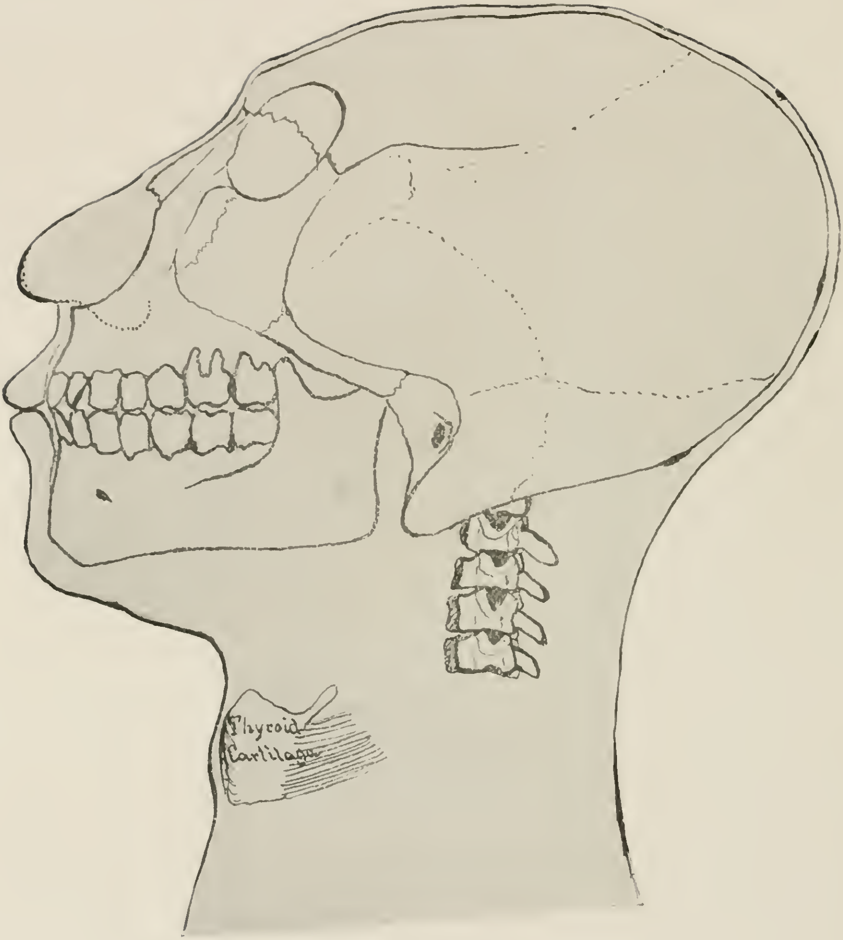
Since so much of the original integument of the mound had been washed from the sides, I thought it best to begin the excavations on the top. Upon removal of the outer crust to an extent of about eight inches, I found the indications of a large fire kindled on the southeast corner. The ashes, intermingled with a very little charcoal, were about three inches thick; I followed them up all around, but discovered nothing in them. Continuing the excavation to an additional depth of five feet, I came upon another larger and thicker layer of ashes. Every part of this bed was carefully examined, but yielded nothing. In some places, however, ashes and small pieces of charcoal appeared to be caked together as if water had been thrown over them. All indications pointed to the fact that this was not due to seepage of any kind. After noting all points in connection with these traces of a prehistoric signal-fire, I extended the excavation more toward the northeast slope, carrying it about six feet further. The deeper the trench got the harder and more compact became the clay. The total absence of shells in the entire structure as far as I examined it was noticeable, and yet the locality must have abounded in species of unio, etc. Not finding any further traces of human life outside of those two fire beds, and the few small objects already mentioned, and considering the height and relative position of this mound, I believe we are justified in regarding it as a point of observation and signal. The distance by air line between this and the Henry mound is only nine miles. Twelve miles east of it is a group of forty or fifty of what Professor Forshey designates "inexplicable mounds." Communication, therefore, could have been easily maintained with all mounds in that section within a radius of ten or fifteen miles, for the country is nearly level all around.

Upon arriving at the east end of Black Lake I was surprised to see such a number of small conical tumuli, stretching one after the other in double rows as far as the eye could reach. I thus found myself in the midst of another such collection of village mounds as I described in Franklin parish.

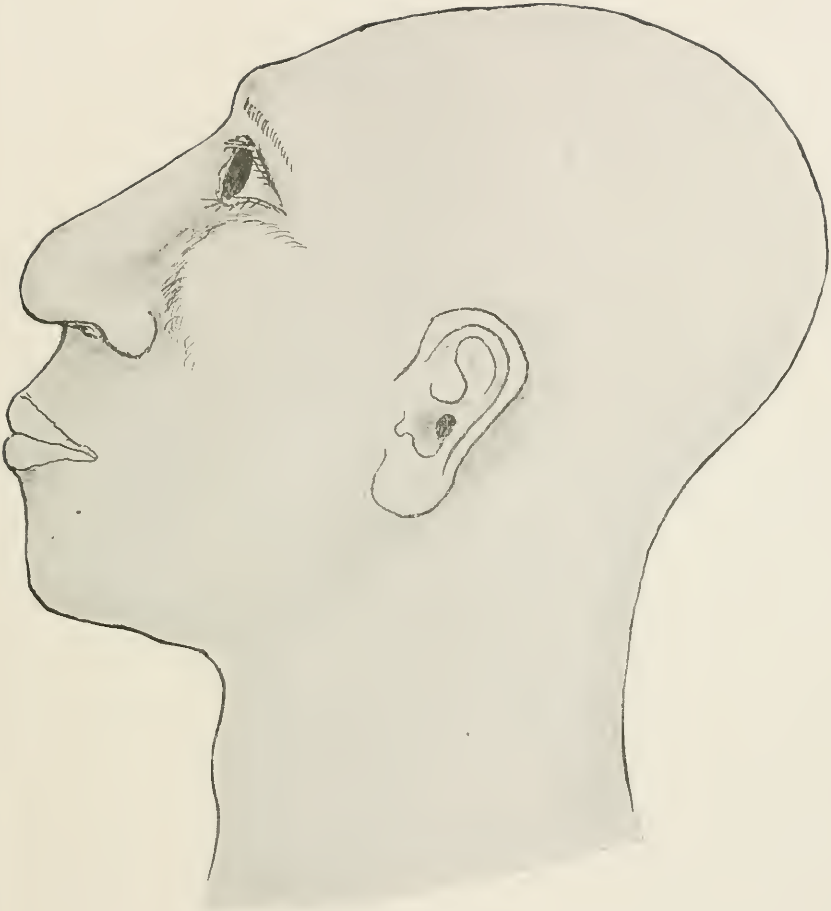
In shape and general appearance they were similar, but varied somewhat in size. Some few reached five feet, while the majority were only three feet and even less. Their base diameters did not exceed thirty feet. I passed from one to another hoping to find some traces of relics on or near the surface, but I failed in every instance. Thorough examination of quite a number was easily and quickly made, although the loamy earth was fairly compact and hard. There was no visible stratification, nor did the spade turn up any relics, notwithstanding that each mound was examined beyond the depth of its base.

On the map of Black Lake I have placed the mounds as accurately as I could without making an exact survey. The hospitable residents of that section of the parish informed me that they had never noticed any objects lying about. A great many even had never given a thought, as to whether these mounds were artificial or natural elevations, yet the main road to Campti leads right past an ancient village which had, perhaps, a larger population than that of the adjacent country at present. The exact number of these mounds was not obtained, as many of them may have escaped notice on account of the undergrowth in the woods. I was told, however, there were fifty or more.

The absence of all traces of bones or implements in or on these small structures leaves, in my opinion, but one conclusion. They were the sites upon which the aborigines built their shelters, which in this climate were constructed of very light material. Had they erected their huts upon the level ground every light shower of rain would have transformed the interior into a miniature pond, for the raising of their dwelling upon sills or pillars was either unknown to them or they had other reasons not to adopt such a plan. By simply throwing up a small mound they saved themselves at once considerable carpenter's work, and effectually gained their



Larto Skull.



Larto Skull with Features Restored.

object of having a high and dry dwelling. In localities which were subject to greater inundation, higher mounds, of course, were required. From the original purpose of these structures other uses, such as burial, worship, etc., were evolved. The idea was transmitted from generation to generation, until finally, after the invasion of this continent by the Caucasians, the tribes changed from sedentary habits to a roving disposition. and the original purpose with the majority of the descendants of the mound builders was lost sight of, and the mounds simply became burial places. I may safely say, I have found, that on an average but one mound in twenty or more would contain human remains.

The same points I set forth already in regard to the original structure of the majority of mounds in our gulf coast section I found reconfirmed. I may briefly summarize them thus:

1. That the primary object of construction was for habitation, and that their use for worship, burial and signaling was not only subsequent but incidental.

2. That they were increased in dimensions as necessity required it.

3. That the primary *motif* of their erection was certainly not one of burial.

4. That the orignal construction of mounds by far antedates the discovery of this continent by Columbus, and

5. That our gulf coast mound builders were originally represented by at least two types, one of which was eventually superseded and crowded out by the ancestors of our later Indian tribes.

TWO ORIGINAL AND NEWLY FOUND DOCUMENTS OF THE DEPARTURE, SHIPWRECK AND DEATH OF MR. AUBRY, THE LAST FRENCH GOVERNOR IN LOUISIANA.

Last April I obtained from Paris two documents of great interest for the history of Louisiana.

The first is the declaration of Cabarn de Trepis, written and signed by him as to the departure of Charles Philippe Aubry, the last French Governor of Louisiana, from a place two and a half leagues below New Orleans, with two boxes full of silver, each containing at least 10,000 livres, a bag containing also some silver and a purse containing some 1500 or 1600 livres in gold.

The departure of ex-Governor Aubry at that place, below the city, seems to indicate that he feared the public vengeance for his late infamous acts.

2. The sworn statement, on stamped paper of the city of Bordeaux, of Capt. Jacques Jacquelin, and of the survivors of the shipwreck of his vessel, Le Père de Famille, aboard of which had been Governor Aubry, 58 soldiers and other passengers, all of whom perished with the exception of Captain Jacquelin and four men.

The above statement was sworn to and signed before the Lieutenant of the Admiralty, and gives not only all the details of the shipwreck but also that of the cargo.

In neither of the two manuscripts is there any statement made that Governor Aubry carried with him the public or official documents of the Colony of Louisiana; a fact to be found, without proof or authority, in almost every historical work alluding to Aubry, his departure from Louisiana and death by shipwreck.

The above two documents have been read by me, at the meeting of the 14th May, 1897, of the Athénée Louisianais, and are published in extenso in the 1st of July, 1897, number of the publications of the said society.

I have had a *fac simile* made of the certificate of Cabarn de

Trepis, which, being a short document, will be published as a sequel to the preceding remarks and a literal translation will accompany the document.

The second document being very long and with the legal verbiage of the time, I will give now a short synopsis of the contents of same and call your attention to several errors to be found in all histories of Louisiana, corrected by this document.

From the sworn statement of Captain Jacques Jacquelin, it appears that he left New Orleans on the 23d of November, 1769, having for passengers Mr. Aubry, Mr. Delaforest, a lieutenant of troops, several sergeants and soldiers, numbering fifty-eight men; he had also for the French government six double-barreled cast-iron cannons. He had as extra passengers Messrs. Amestrame (*Armstrong?*), lieutenant colonel of His British Majesty; Detours, a merchant; also four women and three children. He stopped at Corona on the 29th of January to deliver the dispatches and parcels of Mr. O'Reilly, the general in Louisiana, for the Court of Madrid, to be delivered to Mr. Grimaldi, the minister of said court. Captain Jacquelin states that he left Corona the 4th of February, 1770, and sailed for the entrance to the river of Bordeaux, and on the evening of the 17th he endeavored to enter the river even at the risk of perishing; that when almost opposite the tower of Cordouan the vessel struck the rocks and a large wave carried away the cabin on which Mr. Aubry and several others were, and they were all lost. Mr. Aubry's death occurred on the 17th February, 1770, just before night. The captain states how he finally reached Royan on a plank. Three of the four men who reached land appeared and gave their testimony confirming the statements of the captain and how they saved their lives; the fourth was sick at the hospital and did not testify.

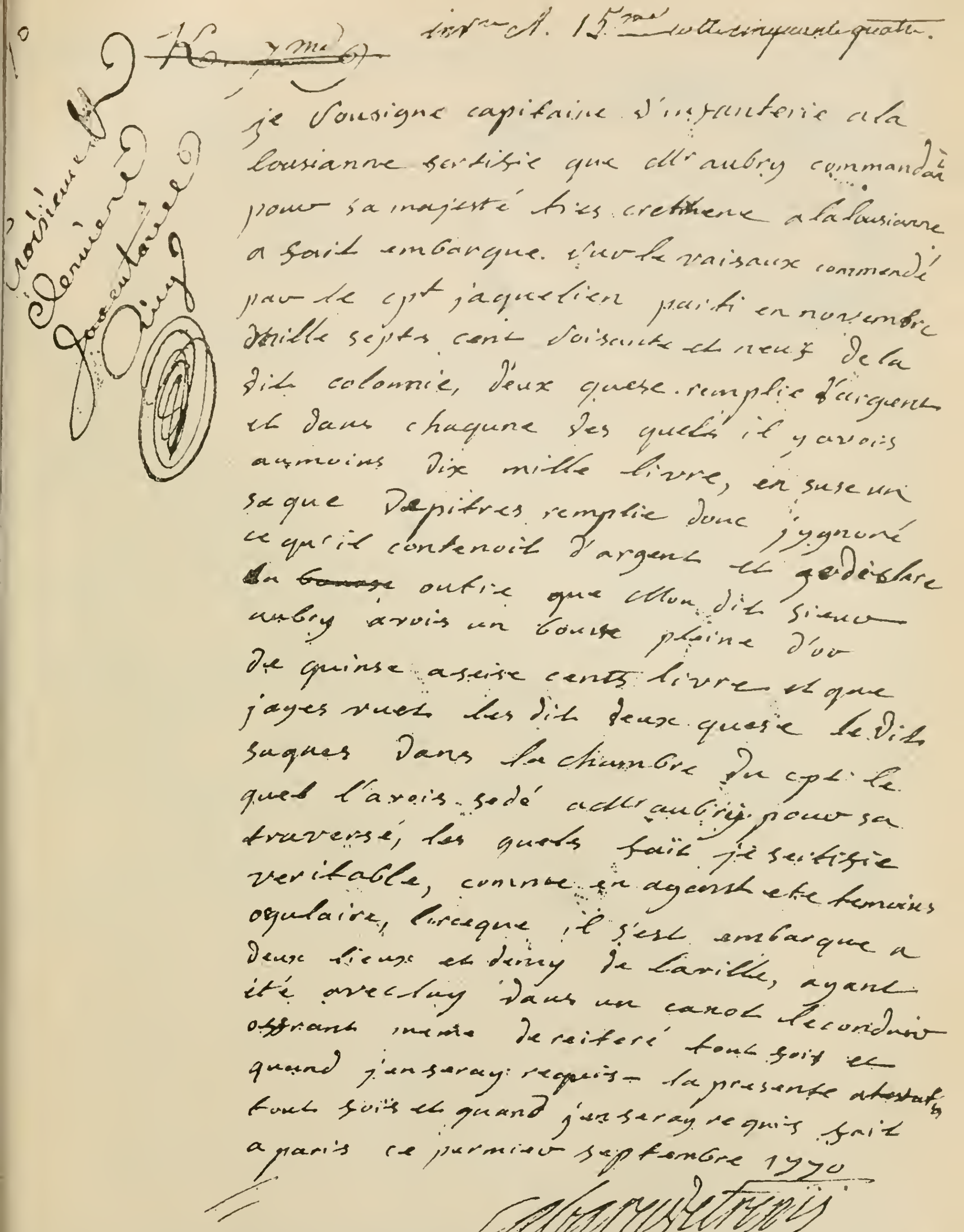
As it may be interesting to know of what the cargo of a vessel from Louisiana to France consisted, I will give, in a few words, the statement of Captain Jacquelin as to the contents of his vessel. There were on board of his vessel eight packages of furs, twenty-one raw hides, fourteen barrels of indigo, two other barrels of indigo, and four hundred planks ten or twelve feet long; also, for his own account, twenty barrels and eleven quarts of indigo, three thousand piastres (dollars?), also various amounts: one thousand piastres, ——, two thousand piastres, ——, fifteen hundred piastres, and again, four thousand piastres, making a total of eleven thousand five hundred piastres.

The statement of the captain as to the loss of his vessel, the death of Governor Aubry and details of cargo was made on the 2d of March, 1770. The statement as to the cargo was confirmed, under oath, by Jean Lacassaigne, on the 5th of February, 1770.

CERTIFICATE OF CAPTAIN CABARN DE TREPIS.

I, the undersigned, captain of infantry in Louisiana, certify that Mr. Aubry, commandant for his Most Christian Majesty in Louisiana, caused to be sent on board of the vessel, commanded by Captain Jaquelien, which left in November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, two boxes full of silver, and in each of the boxes there were at least ten thousand livres, besides a bag of seagrass, also full, the amount of silver in which I do not know, and I furthermore declare that the said Mr. Aubry had a purse full of gold, containing about fifteen or sixteen hundred livres, and that I have seen the two boxes and the said bag in the room of the captain, who had given it to Mr. Aubry for his trip, all of which facts I certify the truth of, having seen them with my own eyes when he embarked two and a half leagues below the city, I having been with him in a canoe to take him there. I furthermore offer to reiterate at any time, and when I shall be required, the present statement at any time and when I shall be required. Done at Paris, this first of September, 1770. CABARN DE TREPIS.

The record of Aubry, in Europe, was a most honorable one; his deeds in the Illinois region, previous to his governorship and residence in New Orleans, had given ample proof of his bravery and military capacity when he defended Fort Duquesne against an English army more numerous than the small force under him. In that battle he killed 300 men and captured 200 prisoners; he then destroyed his fort before the arrival of General Washington at the head of 10,000 Englishmen, and marched to Illinois with his small army and all the cannons and munitions of said fort.

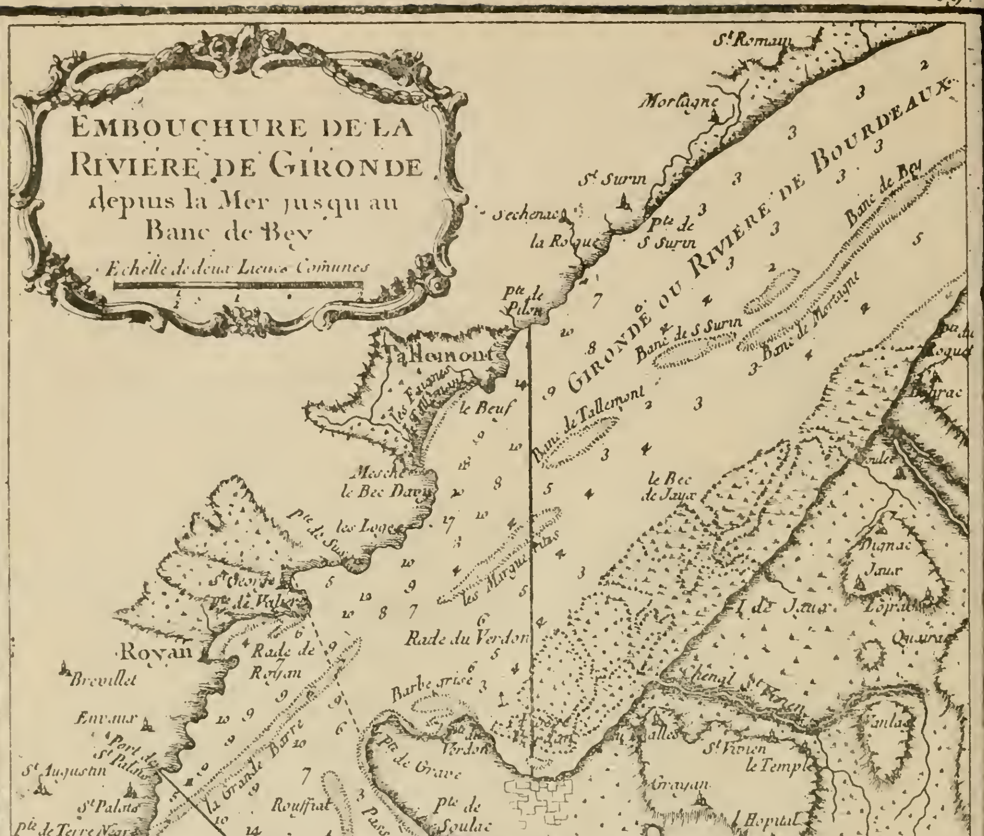


1°

~~K 7me~~ ixtre A. 15^{me} cotte cinquantequatre.

Croisieur
Clernière
Jacoutoure
Aury

je Sousigne capitaine d'infanterie a la
lousianne sertifie que Mr aubry commandai
pour sa majesté tres crethiene a la lousianne
a fait embarque sur le vaisaux commandé
par le cpt jaquelien parti en novembre
de mille septs cent soisante et neuf de la
dit colonnie, deux quese remplie d'argent
et dans chaqune des quels il y avois
aumoins dix mille livre, en suse un
saque de pitres remplie donc j'ygnoré
ce qu'il contenoit d'argent et je declare
~~du bonnage~~ outre que Mon dit sieur
aubry avois un boite pleine d'or
de quinse a seise cents livre et que
jayes vuet les dit deux quese le dit
saques dans la chambre du cpt le
quel l'avois cedé a Mr aubry pour sa
traversé, les quels fait je sertifie
veritable, comme en ayant ete temoins
oqulaire, lorceque il s'est embarque a
deux lieux et demy de la ville, ayant
été avec luy dans un canot le conduire
offrant meme de reiteré tout fois et
quand j'en seray requis la presente atestation
tout fois et quand j'en seray requis fait
a paris ce permier septembre 1770


EMBOUCHURE DE LA
RIVIERE DE GIRONDE
depuis la Mer jusqu au
Banc de Bey
Echelle de deux Lieues Comunes
GIRONDE OU RIVIERE DE BOURDEAUX
St. Romain
Mortagne
St. Surin
Sechenac
la Roque
Pte. de S. Surin
Pte. le Pilon
Talmont
Banc de S. Surin
Banc de Mortagne
Banc de Bey
Banc de Tallemont
le Beuf
Mesche
le Bec Davy
les Loges
Pte. de Suzac
St. George
Pte. de Valière
les Marguerites
le Bec de Jaux
Royan
Rade de Royan
Rade du Verdon
Barbe grise
Breuillet
Envaux
Port de St. Palais
St. Augustin
St. Palais
Pte. de Terre Negre
la Grande Barre
Rouffiat
Matte du milieu
la Barre a l'Anglois
Pte. de Grave
Pte. de Soulac
Passe de Grave
Verdon
Soulac
Grayan
l'Hopital
Etang de la Barriere
Pte. des Olives
Pte. de Lavardin
Banc des Olives
Tour de Corduan
le Chevrier
la Mauvaise
Passe d'Escameau
Passe du Matelot
le Matelot
les Asnes
I. de Jaux
Chenal St. Vivien
St. Vivien
le Temple
Dignac
Jaux
Talais
Valais
Queuneau

In 1759, when General Prideaux of the British army laid siege to Fort Niagara, then defended by Captain Pouchot, he only obtained its surrender when Aubry, who was marching to the rescue and assistance of the fort, with a body of Frenchmen, had been most severely wounded and made a prisoner and his company nearly all killed or made prisoners.

As the last French governor of Louisiana after the death of Abadie, February 4, 1765, until his departure for France, November 23, 1769, after delivering the government of Louisiana into the hands of O'Reilly, his acts deserve no praise, for they were infamous. His memory, in Louisiana, is held in hatred and contempt, like that of Benedict Arnold, the infamous traitor of the revolution and war for the independence of the English colonies in America.

It 1776 Colonel Chevalier Jean de Champigny published a book having for its title, "Etat présent de la Louisiane avec toutes les particularités de cette Province d'Amérique: Pour servir de suite à l'Histoire des Européens dans les Deux Indes."

On page 38 of that volume is given the following pen portrait of Aubry:

"Mr. Aubry was a little, dry, lean, ugly man, without nobility, dignity or carriage. His face would seem to announce a hypocrite, but in him this vice sprang from excessive goodness, which granted all, rather than displease; always trembling for the consequences of the most indifferent actions, a natural effect of a mind without resource or light; always allowing itself to be guided, and thus swerving from rectitude in conduct; religious through weakness rather than from principle; incapable of wishing evil, but doing it through a charitable human weakness; destitute of magnanimity or reflection; a good soldier, but a bad leader; ambitious of honors and dignity, but possessing neither firmness nor capacity to bear the weight."

Aubry, through his servile obedience to the orders of his master, Louis XV, became the lacquey of Ulloa and his detective, and later became the cowardly informer upon his countrymen, on the arrival of the Spanish Governor O'Reilly. For this last act he is despised by all sons of Louisiana, as this action is by them considered disgraceful and infamous.

This charge against the memory of Aubry is not subject to any doubt, for it can be verified by his letter to the French minister, dated September 1, 1769, which can be read in B. F. French's Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, Vol. V, pages 205 to 209. Aubry is therefore responsible for the executions of Lafrénière, Noyan, Caresse, Milhet and Marquis, who were shot on the 25th of October, 1769.

Aubry is also responsible for the arrest and death of Villeré, who, about to leave for the British colonies, was deceived by the contemptible Aubry, who invited him to present himself to O'Reilly with a promise of oblivion of the past and a safe conduct. Such was the man who perished on the 17th of February, 1770, with his money, in all probability, the price of his treacherous information.

In the same work of Mr. de Champigny, on page 85, in a foot-note, is the following statement: "A present of 12,000 écus of Spain and a life pension were given to Aubry by Governor O'Reilly. An offer of a high position in the service of the Spanish king was added to the above, but Aubry, too happy to return to France, there to live quietly on the price of his infamy, had refused the last offer and he sailed for France with his money."

Were it not that so many others, not responsible for his crime, perished with him, we should be tempted to see in his death the wrath of the Almighty destroying this unworthy governor of Louisiana, with the accursed money he had taken from Louisiana.

In a few lines at the bottom of page 209 of B. French's Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, Vol. V, are found the following erroneous statements, copied or found in almost all historical works relating to Louisiana and Aubry:

1. Aubry is there said to have sailed for France in the beginning of the year 1770. He sailed on the 23d of November, 1769.

2. He is said to have sailed with all his property and the

public papers belonging to the province. He did carry his money, but did not take with him any such public papers.

3. His vessel is said to have entered the mouth of the Garonne on the 18th of February, 1770, and he is said to have perished on that day. The river his vessel was about to enter was the Gironde, and the date was the 17th of February, 1770.

4. All on board are said to have perished, except four sailors, who succeeded in reaching the shore. The captain, three sergeants and a surgeon were saved, five in all.

5. French, on same page, states that the official correspondence of Aubry is deposited in the archives of Paris, but his private journal, with the valuable archives of the colony, was lost with him in the shipwreck. The two documents in my possession make no mention of his private journal nor of the public archives of Louisiana; the only documents or papers mentioned are the dispatches of Governor O'Reilly to Mr. Grimaldi, the Spanish minister at Madrid, which were delivered at Corona, Spain, on the 29th of January, 1770. GUSTAVUS DEVRON, M. D.

N. B.—A *fac simile* of the certificate of Cabarn de Trepis, exact size, and a reduced *fac simile* of a map of J. N. Bellin, 1764, are added to the above paper; the map shows the locality of the shipwreck.

THE CLIMATE OF NEW ORLEANS, LA.

[FROM THE WEATHER BUREAU RECORD OF PAST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS—1871 TO 1897, INCLUSIVE.]

The month of January is usually the coldest of the year, with a normal mean temperature of 54 degrees. The month averages two degrees colder than December and four degrees colder than February. The spring months—March, April and May—have average temperatures of 63, 69 and 75, respectively. June has an average temperature of 80; July 82 and August 82, though July averages somewhat warmer than August. September's mean temperature averages 79, October 70 and November 61, making a normal annual mean of 69 degrees for the year.

The equability of New Orleans' climate is shown most forcibly by the fact that the average annual mean temperatures have varied but four degrees in twenty-seven years—the year 1895 showing the lowest annual mean of 67, and 1882 and 1883 showing the highest of 71.

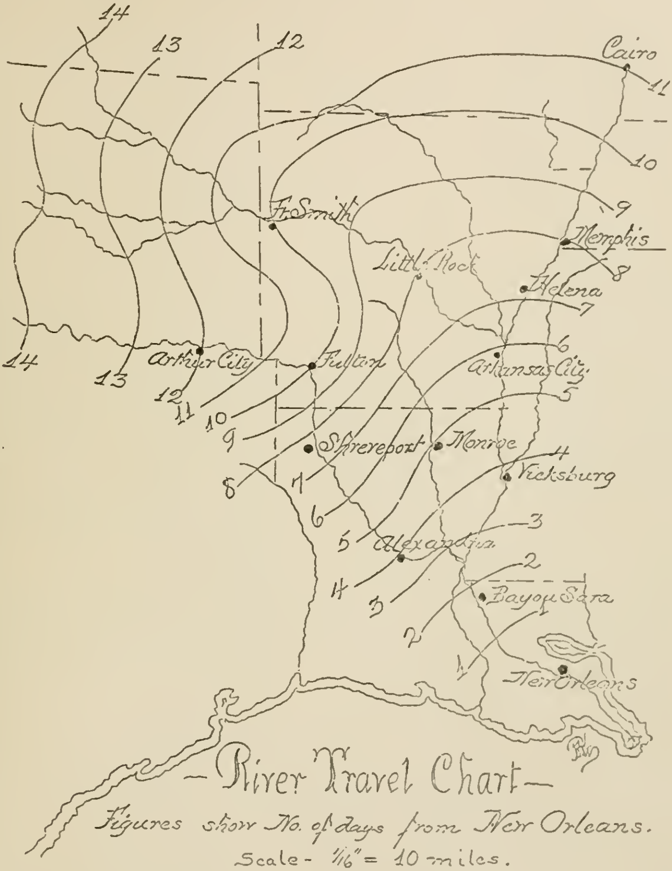
The daily extremes of temperature are a maximum temperature of 99 on August 3, 1897, and a minimum of 15 on January 9, 1886.

The average date of the first light frost is November 22; and of the first killing frost of winter December 16; the average date of the last killing frost of winter is January 24. The earliest frost on record is November 1, 1878, and latest on April 3, 1896—the latter being remarkably late for this section of the State. The latest killing frost occurred on March 27, 1894.

The mean relative humidity ranges from 72 to 76 per cent., May and October showing the least average of 72 per cent., and August the greatest of 76 per cent. April has an average of 73 per cent., and the remaining months of the year have averages ranging between 74 per cent. and 75 per cent., making the average annual humidity 74 deg. The driest year from a humidity standpoint was 1876, with an average of 67 per cent.; and the wettest, from a like standpoint, was 1890, with an average of 80 per cent.

The average annual rainfall for New Orleans is 60 inches. June and July show the greatest averages of 6.61 and 6.29 inches, respectively, followed by August with 5.84, March with 5.27, April with 5.18, January 4.94, May 4.64, September 4.56, February 4.48, December 4.36, November 4.11, and October, the least, with 3.20. In the year 1875 New Orleans received 85.73 inches of rainfall, and the year 1888 gave 83.13 inches; on the other hand the year 1891 gave a minimum annual fall of 38.62 inches.

There are an average of 130 days in the year on which appreciable rain falls, July having the greatest number of any month, 16, with 14 in June and August, 11 in January,

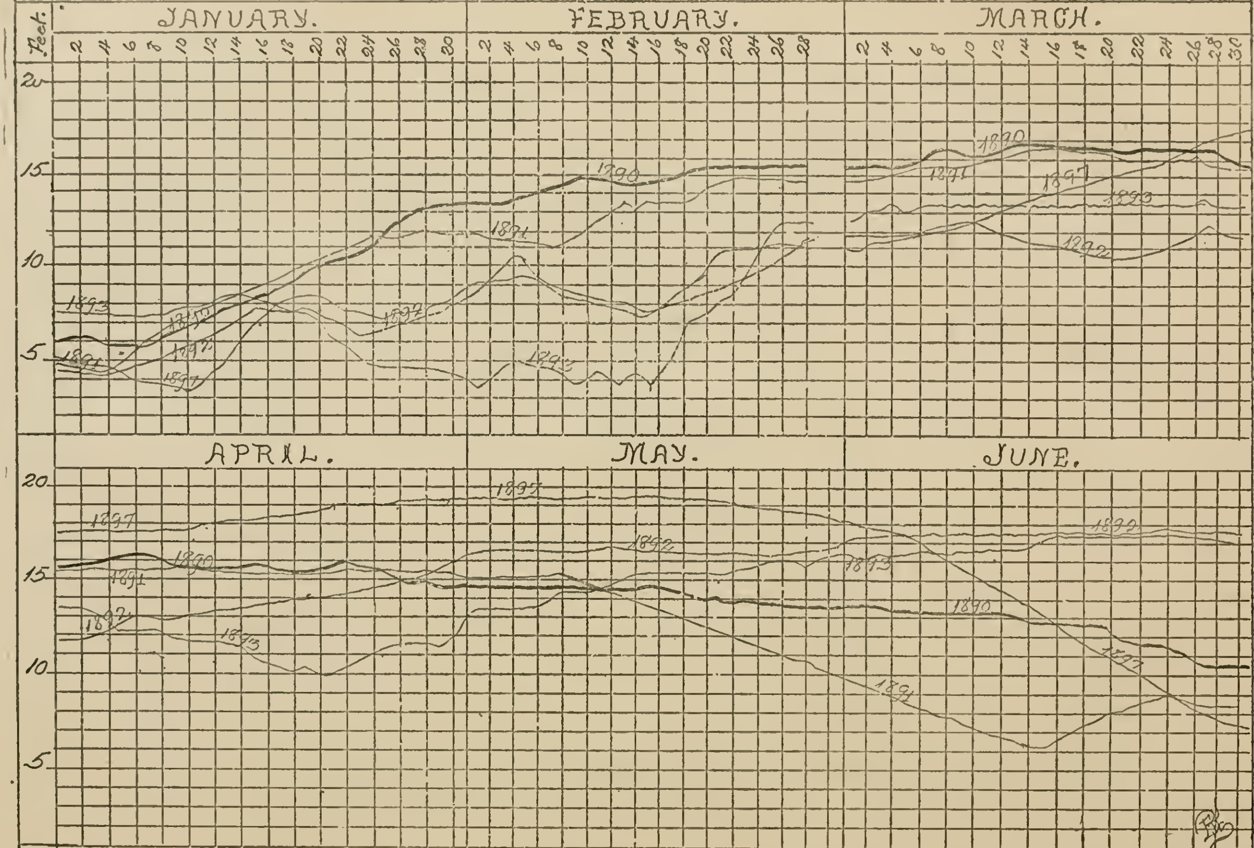


-River Travel Chart-

Figures show No. of days from New Orleans.

Scale - 1/16" = 10 miles.

Hydrograph of River Stages at New Orleans, La. during High Waters since 1890.



Note: Danger Line at New Orleans is 15 feet; bank full stage is 9 feet. No high waters in '94, '95 and '96.

September and December, 10 in February and March, 9 in May and November, 8 in April and 7 in October.

The year has an average of 129 days that are clear: 147 that are partly cloudy, and 90 that are cloudy. The showers of the month of June, July and August, usually falling with only partly cloudy days, are at once the cause of (1) the great number of rainy days, (2) the heavy rainfall, and (3) the comparatively low summer temperature, in that an extreme heat, such as is registered in the interior and north portions of the country, would be well nigh impossible in this section without a downpour of rain that would at once and effectually lower the temperature decidedly.

The prevailing winds during the months of November, December and January are northerly; from February to August southeasterly, and during September and October northeasterly. The summer months also show a tendency to many south and southwest winds.

The record of appreciable snowfall since 1871 is as follows: January 5, 1879, about one inch of snow fell during a sleet storm; January 23–24, 1881, snow fell to a depth of five inches, and on February 14–15, 1895, there was an average fall of eight inches.

Under River Travel Chart.

The river travel chart portrays in a graphic manner the average number of days it takes a freshet wave to move from Cairo and intermediate points to New Orleans, on the Mississippi river, and from near the headwaters of the Arkansas, Red and Ouachita to their mouths.

The average time consumed for a wave of water to move from Cairo to Memphis is 2½ days; from Memphis to Helena, 1½ days; Helena to Vicksburg, 3¼ days; Vicksburg to Bayou Sara, nearly 3 days, and from Bayou Sara to New Orleans, over 1 day.

STATEMENT OF THE SUGAR CROP MADE IN LOUISIANA IN 1896-97.

[From the Louisiana Sugar Report. A. Bouchereau.]

The sugar crop of 1896-97 aggregated 631,699,561 pounds, or 282,008,386 long tons of sugar.

The total production of molasses for 1896-97 was 20,820,130 gallons.

The average yield of cane per acre was twenty short tons. Total acreage of cane ground was about 203,258 acres, or 4,065,160 short tons.

There were 395 sugar houses in operation, a decrease of 29 since the 1895-96 report. This decrease is due to small planters finding it more advantageous to sell their cane by the ton to large factories.

The crop was a large one, an increase in the acreage of cane having been planted, but the season on the whole was an unprofitable one to the planters, the rolling expenses being much in excess of the previous years. This was due to the weather and the scarcity of labor. A freeze on the 9th of November killed the bud and forced the planters to windrow the principal part of their crops. A subsequent freeze caused steady depreciation; the loss in yield was estimated from 10 to 25 per cent. Bad roads, produced also by climatic conditions, obstructed rapid hauling of the cane, and the mills curtailed in their supply were prevented from steady work, which lengthened the period and consequently increased the cost of manufacture. The scarcity of labor was due to the low wages caused by the depression of the sugar industry under the Wilson tariff bill. This was remedied by an increase of wages by agreement of the planters throughout the sugar belt, viz.: $1 per day for first-class field hands, the rate decreasing according to capacity and efficiency.

Notwithstanding the drawbacks, however, it is found that some sugar manufacturers, by close economy and with exceptionally fine crops and the best process of manufacture, made a good profit where the best process of manufacture was employed, the general deficiency in tonnage was compensated by a remarkable percentage of saccharine matters, and on many places unprecedented yields per ton were obtained. In other localities where the tonnage yield exceeded expectations, the sucrose yield per ton was below the average.

COTTON CROP OF THE UNITED STATES AND LOUISIANA—1896-97.

[TAKEN FROM THE SECRETARY'S REPORT OF THE NEW ORLEANS COTTON EXCHANGE, SEPTEMBER 1, 1897.]

The cotton crop of the United States for the year ending August 31, 1897, amounts to 8,757,964 bales, showing an increase over the crop of 1895-96 of 1,600,618, a decrease under that of 1894-95 of 1,143,287, and an increase over that of 1893-94 of 1,208,147 bales. Five-sixths of the excess was in the groups known as the "other Gulf" and "Atlantic States," Texas (including the Indian Territory) showing an increase in round figures of 258,000, the Gulf States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee) of 69,000, and the Atlantic States (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina) of 674,000.

In the absence of much of the usual speculative influences, the range of values has been lower, but this has been partly offset by the fact that perhaps no cotton crop yet grown has been raised at such small cost, and it is safe to assume that it has netted the producer more than any previous one. Its actual value has been about $25,000,000 more than was realized from the 9,901,000-bale crop of 1894-95, but this represents much less than the net gain to the grower, considering the difference in the cost of raising the two crops.

No unusual or startling features have been developed in the course of the market, and although the year's production was larger than generally expected after the disastrous results of the extreme hot weather and drought of July and August, and the trade and financial outlook of this country were generally unsatisfactory, these were offset by the strong statistical position which kept prices unusually steady. Based on a fair average for the United States the highest point touched was $8\frac{1}{8}$c. per pound, and the lowest $6\frac{11}{16}$c., the average for the season being 7.32. Both the extremes noted were exceptional, the general range having been between 7c. and $7\frac{3}{4}$c. per pound. The average commercial value of the crop has been $36.76 per bale, against $41.09 last year, $30 year before last, and $37.50 in 1893–94, and the total value of the crop compares with the past five years as follows:

The commercial crop of Louisiana is estimated in thousands of bales—at 575, against 430 for 1895-96.

The net receipts at New Orleans are: 1896-97, 2,128,315 bales, against 1,809,864 in 1895-96.

Of the past eight years' consumption barely 30 per cent. has been South and over 70 per cent. North, while of the total cotton production of the United States, but little more than 32 per cent. has been consumed in this country.

The changes in percentages North and South during that period, however, are strikingly suggestive. In eighteen hundred and ninety 76.7 per cent. of our domestic consumption of American cotton was North, and 23.3 per cent. South; in eighteen hundred and ninety-seven 63.4 was North, and 36.6 was South—in other words, in the former year Northern consumption was as eighteen to five, whereas to-day it is as eighteen to ten—the North standing to-day as it did in 1890, and the South having doubled. This of course relates to American cotton only.

For the first time in its history the cotton consumption of the South has passed the million-bale mark, the returns by Southern cotton mills for the year just closed showing as the total number of bales consumed 1,042,671, an increase of 137,970. This is the largest yearly gain made, except that of 1894–95.

As an indication that the trend of the cotton manufacturing industry in America continues surely and steadily southward, the results are most gratifying, especially as this increase occurred in face of an unfavorable season.

Of the 482 cotton mills in the South, Louisiana possesses five, of which only two were in operation during 1897. These consumed 13,755 bales, against 16,378 during 1896.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Texas State Historical Association, Vol. I, Part I.

State Historical and Natural History Society, of Denver, Colorado.

The Ohio Archæological and Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. T. G. Richardson Memorial, by Ed. Souchon, M. D.

Missouri Historical Society, Nos. 13 and 14, 1897.

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Proceedings of New Jersey Historical Society.

Annals of Iowa, Des Moines.